

BOOK OF
PSALMS

ROGER SCHOENBECHLER, O.S.B.

BOOK OF PSALMS

By Roger Schoenbechler, O.S.B.

The entire Book of Psalms of the Old Testament is here presented in smoothly flowing rhythmic English. A number of versions of the psalms in measured rhythm have appeared in past centuries, but this is perhaps the only such version of all the psalms in the present century.

Nor is it a mere translation. Based on the best findings of scholars, difficult passages have been expanded and made clear so that the text can be readily understood. The 11-point type and dark print make for easy reading.

Intended both for study and prayer, this neatly printed book also provides a complete index of psalm themes along with detailed guides for praying the psalms

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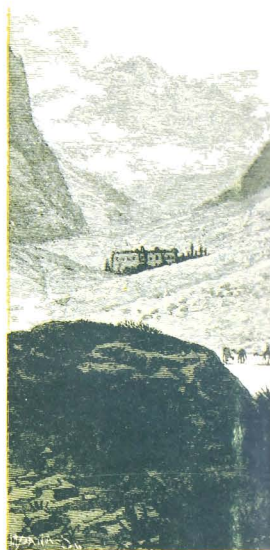
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each day of the week, for seasons and feasts of the year, and for special intentions.

This *Book of Psalms* should serve not only toward a better understanding of the psalms, but also toward a better appreciation of the beauty and drama of the psalms.

A companion volume to this *Book of Psalms* is Father Schoenbechler's English version of *The Book of Wisdom*, also in measured rhythm.

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Front cover: The Plain of er-Raha before the Jabl Musa mountain complex. Here Israel entered into the covenant with Yahweh. *Above:* Monastery of St. Catherine in the valley between the mountains.

BOOK OF PSALMS

An Interpretative Version
In Measured Rhythm

Large Print Edition for Easy Reading

Roger Schoenbechler, O.S.B.

THE LITURGICAL PRESS
Collegeville, Minnesota

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FOREWORD

The Old Testament psalms are the finest prayers in the world and are part of the inspired Word of God. They are also the most used prayers. Written by King David (1012-972 B.C.), by choir masters and other musicians in the Temple of Jerusalem, the psalms were finally gathered into the collection called *The Book of Psalms*. These psalms, or sacred songs, were used by the Hebrew people during Old Testament times and are still being chanted in Jewish synagogues in our own day.

Following the example of Christ and the Apostles, the early Christians continued the praying of psalms. We know this from St. Paul (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16) who exhorts his faithful to “admonish one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your hearts.” That invitation is still valid.

The psalms today continue to be used in Christian churches throughout the world, particularly in our religious houses, our convents and monasteries. Perhaps the psalms are not used as much as in past centuries, but it is certain that they have not fallen into disuse. It would be a pity if they did. Because the psalms are so universally accepted by Jews, Catholics, Orthodox, and Protestants, they

could well serve as an instrument of prayer for Church Unity, as a prayerful means to bridge the religious gaps that exist among religions and peoples of our day. Perhaps the psalms should be more seriously considered for use at ecumenical and inter-faith meetings, since they offer a common basis for prayer together, for all who believe in God.

Because of the universal appeal of the psalms through the centuries, many versions of the psalms have been published in the various languages, apart from the original Bible text itself. Some of these versions were even put into measured rhythm. In English alone we know of at least eight versions of the psalms "in English metre," published from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries inclusive. One of these versions, significantly, was the early American *Bay Psalm Book*, the third book printed in what is now the United States of America. This was a metrical version of the psalms in English, prepared by Puritan divines and printed in 1639–1640. The early Puritans used psalms almost exclusively, in preference to other religious hymns, for their Sabbath services at Salem and Plymouth, in the area that is now Massachusetts.

If we look at the Catholic prayerbooks of the past century in the United States we find that they reveal an abundant use of the psalms. The *Manual of Prayers (For The Use Of The Catholic Laity, Prepared And Enjoined By Order Of The Third Plenary Council of Baltimore)*, published in 1888,

contains nearly all of the psalms in both Latin and English, and provides for the use of the psalms for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and at Vespers for Sundays and the seasons and feasts of the liturgical year. It also indicates the use of the psalms as prayers for special needs and intentions.

The Church has always intended the psalms to serve as an integral part of our prayer life, whether we be priests or religious bound by the obligation to pray the Liturgy of the Hours, or the faithful laity in their personal and private prayer and reflective reading.

In the psalms we pray to God as our savior, king, ruler, shield, fortress, rock, refuge, strength, guide, counsellor, our hope and solace. We thank God in the psalms for his many gifts and blessings to us. We praise him for his power, majesty, wisdom, mercy, love, and justice. We beg him for his gift of peace. We praise him for his faithfulness to his promises, and we on our part promise to keep his laws, decrees, precepts, commandments. We are confident that in his divine providence he will provide us with all that we need to gain eternal salvation, that he will not abandon us, will not abandon the lowly, the poor, the needy, the oppressed, the persecuted. In the psalms we express our complete faith and trust in God “as an infant in the arms of its mother” (Ps. 131), that he will reward the just and punish the wicked.

In the psalms we read about the warnings given to rulers, lest they abuse the authority given to

them, lest they reject God and his commandments. In the psalms we learn to rejoice over the goodness of God and the goodness of those faithful around us. We learn to endure the presence of evil around us, and not to envy the prosperity of the wicked, for in the end God will in his justice make all things right: the good will prosper at last, in the eternal kingdom of God, and the wicked who refuse to repent and acknowledge God as the Lord will be punished.

The psalms are therefore for everyone. The sincere person will have no trouble in finding himself and also finding God by praying the psalms. In essence, that is what the psalms are all about: a quest for God, a seeking for closer union with God and therefore a closer union of charity with our neighbor. The praying of the psalms will teach us to have patience with ourselves and others, to be forgiving and to seek forgiveness. The praying of the psalms will enable us to experience the noblest sentiments of religion. The psalms give us something with which we can identify ourselves. They are a mirror in which we can see ourselves as we are in our human condition, and discover how dependent we are upon God. The psalms are the voice of God telling us all about ourselves, and beckoning us to come closer to him so that he may comfort us, strengthen us, help us overcome evil, and shield us from all evil.

The chief purpose of this version of the psalms has been to make the psalms available to a larger

segment of the faithful who have perhaps not yet had much acquaintance with the psalms, and to whom the psalms have thus far remained a closed book for a variety of reasons, one of which might easily have been that they did not understand the psalms, or found too many obscure expressions in them.

This present version of the psalms is based chiefly on the *Liber Psalmorum cum Canticis Breuiarii Romani*, published by the Biblical Institute in Rome (Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis, 1945), and on the revised Latin text of the psalms as given in the new *Liturgia Horarum* in four volumes (Typis Polyglottis Vaticanis, 1972–1974).

Aware of possible presumption, we have nevertheless prepared this version of the psalms with the hope that they may have a wide appeal for both young and old. We have tried to render the true sense of the psalms in easily understood language, so that there should be little need to refer to footnotes and commentaries, and thus eliminate unnecessary distractions while praying the psalms and meditating on them.

In order to make the psalms even more appealing we have sought to preserve some of the rhythmic character and beauty of the original Hebrew text by setting them in lines of measured rhythm. They can thus more easily be set to music if this is desired, and in any case the rhythmic lines will linger more easily in heart and mind to serve as an unconscious guide for us in our daily life.

It is also hoped that those who find difficulty in reading small and crowded light print will find the larger and darker type-face in this book less taxing on the eyes and easier to read.

May all who use this *Book of Psalms* find the hope and consolation, the peace and joy, the strength and confidence that so many people have found in praying the psalms, as they walked through life on their way to God, to the kingdom of God in heaven, where the just receive the reward of eternal life.

A special word of gratitude is here due to my superior, Abbot John Eidenschink, O.S.B., for allowing me the time and opportunity to prepare this version of the psalms. Also to my three confreres: Fr. Colman Barry, O.S.B., for his interest and encouragement; Fr. Ernest Kilzer, O.S.B., for reading the manuscript and offering many valuable suggestions; Fr. William Heidt, O.S.B., for his continued counsel and guidance during the preparation of this work. And my special thanks to LeMay Bechtold, publications editor of The Liturgical Press, for her editorial advice and expertise.

St. John's Abbey,
Collegeville, Minnesota
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Roger Schoenbechler, O.S.B.

BOOK ONE

Psalms 1-41 (1-40)

Psalm 1

THE GOOD AND THE WICKED

I. The Way of the Just

- 1 How happy those who follow not
The wicked in their evil ways;
They walk not in the ways of sin
Nor do they seek the company
Of those who scoff with insolence
At all who walk the ways of God.
- 2 Their joy is in the law of God;
Both day and night they think of it;
- 3 Like trees that grow by running streams
And in due season yield their fruit;
Like trees whose leaves are ever green
And do not wither in the sun,
So they are blessed with happiness
In all they undertake to do.

II. The Way of the Wicked

- 4 Not so the wicked who, like chaff,
Are blown about by every wind;
- 5 Their cause at judgment will not stand,

Nor will the wicked have a place
Among the righteous and the just.

- 6 The Lord indeed protects the just,
Who faithfully observe his law
Wherein they find their happiness;
But those who walk in sinful ways
Will meet with ruin in the end.

Psalm 2

CHRIST OUR KING

I. Rebellion Against God the Savior

- 1 Why do the nations rage with hate?
Why all the tumult and the noise?
2 And why do kings rise up in wrath
Against the Lord our Christ and King?
And why do they rebel and shout:
3 "Come, let us break these binding chains
And cast these bonds away from us!"

II. God's Response to Rebellious Nations

- 4 From heaven God looks down on them,
Is much displeased and laughs at them;
5 With sharp and warning words he speaks
And in his anger threatens them:
6 "O nations, I would have you know

That I have made him my own King,
To rule on Zion's holy mount."

III. The Savior is King of the Whole World

- 7 And this is what the Lord decreed,
What God, our Lord, has said to me:
"I now proclaim him Lord and King:
He is my sole begotten Son;
8 The nations are his heritage,
And all the world belongs to him;
9 His rule with justice will be firm,
His power great from sea to sea,
And he shall throw the nations down
And crush them like a potter's jar."

IV. Warning to Rulers of the Earth

- 10 So then, O kings, give ear, take heed,
All rulers of the earth, be warned:
11 "Rejoice and serve the Lord with fear,
With trembling pay him homage due,
Lest he unloose his wrath on you,
12 Lest you should perish by the way;
How happy those who trust in him,
Who flee to him in time of need,
And look for refuge in the Lord."

Psalm 3**TRUST IN GOD
IN THE MIDST OF ENEMIES*****I. Come to My Aid, O Lord***

- 2 O Lord, my foes are numberless,
They threaten me on every side,
They rise up strong against me, Lord;
3 They threaten me and say of me:
“With God there is no hope for him.”
- 4 But you, O Lord, will be my shield,
You are my glory and my strength;
I therefore place my trust in you
That you will lift me up again.

II. O God, I Place My Trust in You

- 5 When I then called on you for help,
You heard me from your holy mount;
I knew you would not long delay;
6 When I lay down to sleep and rest,
I trusted you would guard me, Lord,
That I would rise up safe again;
7 I do not therefore fear my foes,
The thousands who surround me, Lord,
Who threaten me on every side.

III. Lord, Save Me from My Foes

- 8 I called on you to save me, Lord:
“Rise up and save me from my foes!”

And in response you struck them down,
You crushed their jaws and broke their teeth.

- 9 And thus salvation comes from you;
O bless and save your people, Lord.

Psalm 4

TRUST IN GOD IN THE MIDST OF SINNERS

I. Help me, Lord, in My Distress

- 2 O God of justice, hear my plea:
I call on you to help me, Lord;
As in the past you rescued me
And raised me up in my distress,
In your great goodness hear me now,
For you alone can help me, Lord.

II. Unjust Rulers are Urged to Repent

- 3 You men of rank, how long will you
Be hard of heart and proud and vain,
And plot deceit and wickedness?
- 4 Do you not know that God protects
All those who put their trust in him?
That in his wondrous might and power
He favors all his holy ones?

- 5 So fear the Lord and do not sin,
Upon your beds in silence pray,
6 And offer him due sacrifice,
A sacrifice of holiness,
And put your hope and trust in him;

III. Your Light, O God, Brings Joy to Me

- 7 Now many long for better days;
They seek and ask for better things,
But know not where to look for them;
So may your light shine down on us!
- 8 Your light brings greater joy to me,
It brings more gladness to my heart
Than any joy that we may find
In all our wealth of corn and wine.
- 9 As I then lie upon my bed,
I fall asleep in peace, O Lord,
And put my hope and trust in you,
For you alone can keep me safe.

Psalm 5

PLEA FOR HELP AND GUIDANCE

I. At Early Dawn I Call on God for Help

- 2 Give ear to all my pleas, O Lord,
And heed my urgent call for help;

- 3 Give ear to my appeal, O Lord,
My king and God, give ear to me!
4 At early dawn you hear my voice,
At dawn I call on you with hope
And trust that you will answer me.

II. The Wicked Turn Away from God

- 5 You do not take delight in sin,
The wicked come not near to you,
The proud remain aloof from you,
6 They cannot stand within your sight.

7 The Lord abhors and will destroy
All those who plot deceits and lies,
Who hate all truth and holiness,
Who only seek to maim and kill.

III. Grant that We May Worship God in Peace

- 8 Because of your great kindness, Lord,
I enter now into your house,
Where I may worship you in peace,
With fear and reverence worship you,
With reverence for your holy place.

9 Because of all my enemies
I beg you, guide me in this life
According to your justice, Lord;
Make straight the way that leads to you.

IV. God Punishes the Wicked

- 10 My foes are insincere in speech.
Their hearts are full of treachery,

Their throats are like an open grave,
Their tongues are smooth with flattery.

Your punishment will fall on them,
The traps they set will snap on them,
And for their sins against you, Lord,
As rebels you will cast them out.

V. God Protects the Just

- 12 Let all be glad and all exult,
May all who love your name rejoice,
Who look to you for refuge, Lord;
Protect and keep them in your care
And give them, Lord, unending joy.
- 13 For you will bless the just, O Lord;
Surround them with your light and truth,
And shield them with your kindly love.

Psalm 6

PRAYER IN TIME OF FEAR AND DREAD

I. Show Me Mercy, Lord

- 2 Lord, reprove me not in anger,
Nor chastise me in your wrath,
3 Show me mercy, for I languish,

- Heal me, Lord, from fear and dread;
 All my bones are troubled, Lord;
 4 Terror fills my soul with anguish,
 How much longer will it last?

II. Save Me, Lord

- 5 Come, O Lord, and quickly save me,
 In your mercy, rescue me.

 6 None among the dead remember,
 They do not remember you,
 Nor do they give praise to you;
 In the darkness of oblivion
 They all wait and watch for you.

III. Behold My Sorrow, Lord

- 7 I am wearied with my sighing,
 Every night I weep and cry,
 8 And my eyes are dimmed with sorrow,
 All my foes still threaten me.

IV. Depart from Me, You Evildoers

- 9 Leave me, all you evildoers,
 You who plan iniquity;
 10 God has heard my cries and pleading,
 He has now received my prayers;
 11 All you wicked foes will suffer
 And retreat in sudden shame.

Psalm 7**APPEAL TO GOD'S JUSTICE*****I. Rescue Me from Slanderers, Lord***

- 2 O Lord, my God, to you I flee,
You are my refuge and my shield;
From those who seek me rescue me
And save me from their clutches, Lord;
2 Lest I become like lions' prey,
All torn to bits and left for dead,
With none to save and rescue me.

II. Defend Me in My Innocence, Lord

- 4 O Lord, if guilt is on my hands,
If I have done this wicked thing:
5 If I with hatred wronged my friends,
In fact, I often spared my foes,
6 Then let the enemy pursue
And overtake and trample me,
And drag my honor in the dust.

III. Judge Me with Your Justice, Lord

- 7 Rise up, O Lord, against my foes,
Rise up against their madness, Lord,
And judge them as you once decreed,
8 With all the nations round your throne,
That all might know that you are judge,
9 The judge of all the nations, Lord;

Be therefore just with me, O Lord,
And weigh my cause with righteousness,
For I am innocent of crime;

- 10 May evil cease and good prevail,
And may you strengthen all the just,
For you alone can search our hearts,
You search the minds and hearts of all.

IV. Be My Shield, Lord

- 11 You shield and save the upright, Lord,
12 But threaten sinners day by day:
13 Unless they quickly change their ways,
You bend and aim your bow at them,
14 With fiery darts you frighten them,
With sharpened sword you conquer them.

V. God Will Punish the Wicked

- 15 The wicked with their evil schemes
Are doomed to failure and deceit;
16 They dig a hole and dig it deep,
Then fall into the pit they made:
17 Their evil crashes down on them,
Upon their unprotected heads.
- 18 We thank you, Lord, that you are just,
And praise your name, O Lord most high!

Psalm 8**THE MAJESTY OF GOD
AND HUMAN DIGNITY*****I. The Splendor of God's Majesty***

- 2 O Lord, how glorious is your name!
How great your name throughout the world!
How splendid is your majesty!
More splendid than the earth and sky.
- 3 The mouths of infants praising you
Confound and silence all your foes,
And shame all those who seek revenge.
- 4 I marvel at the earth and sky,
The sun and moon and all the stars,
The wondrous works of your own hands;
You made them all, O Lord, our God;

II. God Crowned Us with Great Dignity

- 5 And yet, midst all your wondrous works,
It was on us you set your thoughts:
But why should you thus favor us?
Why should you even think of us?
Why should you even care for us,
Who are but mortals in your sight?
- 6 With glory you created us,
You crowned us with great dignity,
A little less than angels, Lord:

- 7 You set us over all your works,
You gave us all the earth to rule,
And placed all creatures under us,
The creatures of your loving hands:
- 8 The sheep and oxen, beasts and birds,
9 Whatever walks or crawls or flies,
Whatever swims the ocean paths.
- 10 O Lord, our God, how wonderful,
How great your name throughout the world.

Psalm 9 (9A)

THANKSGIVING FOR VICTORY

I. I Praise the Lord

- 2 I praise you, Lord, with all my heart,
And loud proclaim your wondrous works;
- 3 With gladness I rejoice in you
And sing the glory of your name:
- 4 My enemies have fallen down,
My foes have stumbled, turned away,
Destroyed before your very face.

II. God Has Conquered My Enemies

- 5 In justice you upheld my cause
And from your throne of justice, Lord,
You judged me and defended me;
- 6 The nations you rebuked and warned,

- You brought the wicked to their death,
Their name forever blotted out;
7 You crushed my foes and cast them down
Into eternal ruin, Lord;
Their cities now in ruins lie,
Their memory long forgotten now.

III. God Has Protected the Oppressed

- 8 But you, O Lord, forever live,
And from your throne forever judge,
9 With justice all the world you judge,
And govern all with equity.

10 O Lord, the refuge and the hope
Of those oppressed and in distress;
11 They trust in you, they know your name,
Your answer all who seek your help.

IV. God Does Not Forget the Poor

- 12 Now praise the Lord, enthroned on high,
Who dwells upon his holy mount;
Proclaim his deeds to all the world;
13 The Lord avenges bloody deeds,
Does not forget the poor in need.

V. God Helps Us Against Our Foes

- 14 Have mercy on me, Lord, and see
The misery that has come on me,
How much I suffer from my foes;
You saved me from the gates of death;
15 For this your praises loud I sing

Within your holy city, Lord,
And I rejoice because you helped,
You helped me in my need, O Lord.

VI. God Judges the Nations

- 16 Sunk in the pit which they had dug,
Caught in the snare which they had laid,
17 Entrapped by schemes which they had planned,
The nations now are judged by you;

VII. God Punishes the Wicked

- 18 The wicked to Sheol are sent
With those who have abandoned God;
19 But those who were oppressed and poor
Shall always find their hope in you.
- 20 Arise, O Lord, and be our shield,
Let not the evil man prevail,
The nations will be judged by you;
21 And they will all be struck with awe
When you once more will let them know
That they are only mortal men.

Psalm 10 (9B)**AGAINST THE OPPRESSORS
OF THE POOR*****I. Forsake Me Not, O Lord***

- 1 Now why do you forsake me, Lord?
Why do you go so far away?
Why hide from me in my distress?
- 2 The wicked all puffed up with pride
Deride the lowly in distress,
They trap them in the snares they set.

II. The Wicked Glory in Their Sin

- 3 The wicked glory in their lust,
The violent blaspheme the Lord,
They scorn and scoff at God, the Lord;
- 4 And in their pride they loud proclaim:
“No God will ever punish us,
There is no God!” such are their thoughts;
- 5 And so the sinners go their way,
They prosper more and more each day,
They give no thought to you, O Lord,
They pay no heed to you, their judge;
They scorn and hate their enemies;
- 6 Within their heart they boast and say:
“No one shall ever change our ways
Nor make us live in misery.”
- 7 They curse and cheat, and plan deceits,
Their tongues pour out iniquity,
Deceit and slander flow from them;

- 8 They hide in ambush near the towns
To stalk and kill the innocent;
They spy upon the poor oppressed,
9 And, as a lion in his lair,
They lie in wait to seize their prey,
To catch the poor afflicted ones,
And in their nets they drag them off.
- 10 They stoop and crouch along the ground
And stealthily waylay the poor,
11 And then they say: "God soon forgets,
God hides his face, he does not see!"

III. Help the Suffering Poor, O Lord

- 12 Rise up, O Lord! Lift high your hand!
Do not forget the suffering poor!
13 Now why do sinners hate the Lord
And say that God does not avenge?
- 14 You see the misery of the poor,
You take their sorrow in your hands;
The poor entrust themselves to you,
And orphans seek their help from you.
- 15 The wicked shall not long prevail
For you will break their arm and strength,
And you will surely punish them
And not allow them to survive.

IV. The Lord Hears the Cry of the Poor

- 16 The Lord is king for evermore:

His wicked foes are cast aside
And now have vanished from the earth.

- 17 The poor cry out, the Lord has heard,
He gives them hope and strength of heart;
18 The helpless orphans he defends,
He comforts all the poor oppressed;
Let sinners know they are but dust,
And terrify the poor no more.

Psalm 11 (10)

WARNING TO THE WICKED

I. I Place My Trust in You, O Lord

- 1 To you I flee for help, O God;
You are my only refuge, Lord;
Yet there are those who say to me:
“Flee quickly now and find escape
In mountain fastness like a bird,
Since there is no more hope for you:
2 The wicked bend their sturdy bow
And place the arrow on the string
To shoot the upright in the dark;
3 When all support has broken down,
What can the just and upright do?
Their only hope remains in flight.”

II. God Judges the Good and the Wicked

- 4 The Lord is still enthroned on high:

- From there he sees and searches all,
Examines all our thoughts and deeds;
5 He judges both the good and bad;
He hates all sin and wickedness,
He warns the wicked of their plight:
6 He rains down burning coals on them,
For this is their allotted cup.
- 7 The Lord is just, he loves good deeds,
And those who keep his law shall live,
Shall one day see him face to face.

Psalm 12 (11)

TRUST IN GOD IN THE MIDST OF EVILDOERS

1. Save Me, Lord, from the Deceitful

- 2 From evildoers save me, Lord:
The faithful are no longer seen;
The good have all but disappeared
And sinners everywhere prevail:
3 Their lips speak smooth and lying words,
Deceitful and dishonest speech;
With lying and deceitful words
They lead their neighbors far astray.
- 4 But you, O Lord, will strike them down:
They scorn you with their arrogance,
With boastful tongue and lying words:

- 5 “Our lips and tongues belong to us
And with them we shall long prevail:
Who dares to lord it over us?
Who dares restrain us in our speech?”

II. God Will Rescue the Oppressed

- 6 So when the Lord sees how the poor
In their affliction call for help,
In answer to their sighs, he says:
“I shall arise and rescue them,
And save all those who call on me.”

III. We Trust in Your Promises, Lord

- 7 The promise of the Lord is sure,
His words are all sincere and true,
Like purest silver, freed from dross,
Made pure and seven times refined.
- 8 We trust that you will guard us, Lord,
And keep us safe from wickedness,
- 9 As sinners proudly strut about,
And boastfully exalt themselves,
But often chance to occupy
The highest places in the land.

Psalm 13 (12)

IN TIME OF SORROW

I. Waiting for God's Help

- 2 How long, O Lord, must I still wait
Have you perhaps forgotten me?
How long will you yet hide your face?
Have you perhaps abandoned me?
- 3 How long must I be sorrowful?
How long will grief keep hold of me?
How long will all my enemies
Look down on me and mock me, Lord?

II. Renewed Trust in God

- 4 O hear me, Lord, and answer me!
Send forth your light upon my eyes,
Lest I should fall asleep in death
Before you come to rescue me:
- 5 For then my enemies would say:
“We conquered him! Where is his God?”

Let not my foes rejoice and say
That I have fallen from your grace,
As if you had abandoned me,

- 6 Despite my trust in you, O Lord.

O let my heart rejoice in you,
For you have helped me in my grief;
And give me cause for gladness, Lord,
That I may always sing with joy:

“The Lord has blessed me generously,
With all good things has favored me.”

Psalm 14 (13)

WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION

I. Nothing Escapes the Eyes of God

- 1 The foolish in their hearts have said:
“There is no God! There is no God!”
How sad that they have gone astray,
Corrupted by their evil deeds:
Their actions are abominable,
Their crimes abhorrent to the just;
It seems that no one can be found
Who trusts in God and does good deeds.
- 2 As God looks down upon the earth,
He looks to see if even one
Has sense enough to search for God;
He looks upon the world below
For even one who seeks the Lord!
- 3 It seems that all have gone astray,
That all have turned to evil deeds;
It seems there is not even one
Who trusts in God and does good deeds.

II. The Faithlessness of Evildoers

- 4 Will evildoers never learn?

Do they not know there is a God?
As if they were but eating bread,
They keep on slowly tearing down,
Then greedily they swallow up
My people who have faith in God;

- 5 These evildoers have no faith,
They do not worship God, the Lord;
They only fear their pagan gods,
Although there is no cause for fear,
Not knowing God is with the just;
- 6 They laugh at God's afflicted poor,
And seek in vain to tear them down
Whose hope and refuge are in God.

III. Renewed Hope of Salvation

- 7 O that from Zion soon will come
Salvation unto Israel!
When God will once again release
His people from captivity,
Then all of Jacob shall rejoice
And all of Israel shall be glad.

Psalm 15 (14)

GOD'S HOUSEHOLD

I. The Great Question

- 1 Who then shall dwell with you, O Lord?
Shall live upon your holy mount?
Shall dwell within your kingdom, Lord?

II. Membership in God's Kingdom

- 2 All those who keep the laws of God,
Observing all of his decrees,
Who practice justice in their deeds:
- 3 Who seek the truth with honesty;
Who slander no one with their tongue;
Who harm no one with bad intent;
Who cast no slurs nor ill remarks
And thus disgrace another's name;
- 4 Who hold in scorn all sin and vice,
But honor those who fear the Lord;
Who keep their oaths and promises,
At cost of painful sacrifice;
- 5 Who lend their money to the poor
And do not make unjust demands
Of those who are already poor;
Who do not falsely testify,
And who would never take a bribe
Against the just and innocent.

III. The Reward: Happiness

The lives of those who do all this

Will always please the Lord our God,
And therefore they shall always live
Upon God's holy mount in peace.

Psalm 16 (15)

GOD THE SUPREME GOOD

I. My Life Is in Your Hands, O Lord

- 1 I come for refuge, save me, Lord:
- 2 "You are my only God and Lord;
I have no greater good than you!"
- 3 How wonderful it is for me
To dwell with God's own holy ones;
How wondrously, O Lord, you made
My love for them a sheer delight.
- 4 But those who worship other gods
Have many sorrows in their life;
No blood libations will I pour,
Nor sacrifice to other gods,
Nor take their names upon my lips.
- 5 O Lord, you are my only God,
The portion and allotted cup
- 6 Of my most precious heritage;
And thus my life is in your hands.
My lot has been a pleasant one,
My heritage a great delight.

II. In the Presence of God

- 7 I bless the Lord who counsels me
And gives me light that I may see,
And even guides me in the night;
- 8 I always keep the Lord in mind,
I keep his presence in my sight;
His very presence at my side
- 9 Gives joy and comfort to my soul;
My body, too, thus rests secure.
- 10 You will not leave me with the dead,
Nor will you let your faithful ones
Be subject to decay and sin.
- 11 But you will always show the way
That leads to life and joy, O Lord,
The joy to share your Vision bright,
And be forever at your side.

Psalm 17 (16)**THE AFFLICTED ONE*****I. Sincerity and Innocence of Heart***

- 1 O hear my plea for justice, Lord,
And listen to my urgent cry:
With all sincerity I beg,
- 2 Let final judgment come from you;
For you know clearly what is right.

- 3 If you should search my heart, O Lord,
Or even visit me at night,
Or try me as it were by fire,
You would not find me guilty, Lord,
Of evils which they speak of me.

- My lips have not transgressed your law,
4 As others do who hate you, Lord;
Your law has always been my guide,
And I have walked your way with care;
5 I walked with firm, determined step,
And never strayed away from you.

II. Defend Me, Lord, Against My Enemies

- 6 I call on you with loving trust
That you, O God, will answer me,
That you will hear my urgent plea;
7 You save all those who flee to you
And refuge seek at your right hand,
And thus be safe from all their foes,
Because of your great kindness, Lord.
8 O guard me, Lord, as if I were
The cherished apple of your eye;
Extend your wings and hide me there,
9 And keep me safe from those who seek
To take my life with violence.

III. Enemies Surround Me on All Sides

- 10 My enemies on every side,

- With hardened hearts and haughty speech,
Surround me with their fury, Lord;
11 They walk around me, watching close,
They crouch down low, they fix their gaze,
12 Like lions searching for their prey,
Or like young lions in their lair,
They wait their chance to strike me down.

IV. Longing for the Vision of God

- 13 Rise up, O Lord, confront them now
And cast them down, away from me;
O save me by your sword and power,
And from the wicked rescue me,
14 From those whose portion is this life,
From those whose belly is their god,
From those whose sons are rich and proud,
Who leave their substance to their heirs.
- 15 When I have passed through death, O Lord,
And you have judged me innocent,
May I, awaking, see your face
And be forever filled with joy,
Forever happy at your side.

Psalm 18A (17A)**THANKS FOR HELP AND VICTORY*****I. God Is My Helper and Strength***

- 2 I love you, Lord, you are my strength,
- 3 My Savior, and my rock and shield,
My fortress which will shelter me
And ward off foes who harass me;
- 4 O Lord, most worthy of all praise,
I humbly call on you for help,
That from my foes I may be safe.

II. I Was Threatened by Death

- 5 The floods of death surrounded me;
The madly rushing streams of sin,
Like raging torrents, frightened me;
- 6 Sheol was set to bind me fast,
And threats of death encircled me.
- 7 In my distress I cried out loud,
I called upon my Lord and God;
My cry reached up to him on high,
He heard my voice and answered me:

III. But God Came to Rescue Me

- 8 The earth began to move and quake,
The mountains trembled deep within,
As if the Lord were mad with rage;
- 9 His nostrils sent forth clouds of smoke,
And from his mouth came burning coals;
- 10 The skies were low as he came down
Upon a black and stormy cloud;

- 11 The cherubim had brought him down
And then he flew on wings of wind;
12 He put on darkness as his cloak,
The dark and watery clouds his tent,
13 The lightning flashes from his face
Like fiery coals burst into bits.
- 14 The Lord then thundered from on high,
His voice was heard from far away,
15 He loosed his arrows on his foes,
With frequent lightnings routed them,
And put his enemies to flight;
16 To this he added further threats,
With stormy blasts of angry winds;
The ocean beds came into view
And earth's foundations all lay bare.
- 17 The Lord reached down and held me tight
And from the waters rescued me;
18 He saved me from my mighty foes
Whose hatred was too much for me,
Whose strength was far too great for me.
- 19 My foes had come to harass me
When I was ill prepared for them,
But then the Lord supported me,
My refuge and my strength was he;
20 He led me forth unharmed and free
Because of his great love for me.

IV. God Was Just and Merciful to Me

- 21 With justice God has dealt with me,
In justice he rewarded me,
Because he found me free of guilt,

- 22 For I have always kept his ways;
I have not gone astray from him
Nor have I been disloyal to him.
- 23 His laws I kept before my eyes,
His precepts I did not reject;
- 24 I have been blameless in his sight,
And kept myself from sin and guilt.
- 25 The Lord has thus rewarded me
According to my innocence,
For in his sight my hands are clean.
- 26 With the holy, you are holy;
With the faithful, you are faithful;
With the upright, you are upright;
- 27 And with those who act sincerely
You are true and understanding;
As for those who are deceitful,
You outwit them with your wisdom;
- 28 And you favor lowly people,
But reject the proud and haughty.
- 29 Lord, you make my light shine brightly,
With your light you drive out darkness;
- 30 Knowing that you will support me
When my enemies attack me,
When I must go out to fight them,
Only then do I find courage
And sufficient strength for battle;
With your help, I scale their ramparts,
Routing and defeating them,
With your strength supporting me.

- 31 The ways of God are perfect ways,
The word of God is true as gold,
As gold and silver tried by fire;
A shield for those who seek in him
A place of refuge and of peace.

Psalm 18B (17B)

THANKS FOR GOD'S BLESSINGS

I. God Shows me How to Conquer My Foes

- 32 Who is our God except the Lord?
Who is our rock except our God?
33 The God who girded me with strength,
Who kept me safe upon the way,
34 Who made me swift as running deer,
And in his fortress sheltered me;
35 Who trained my hands to conquer foes,
My arms to bend the strongest bow.

II. God Gives Me Strength Unto Victory

- 36 Your saving shield you gave to me,
And with your right hand held me up;
You cared for me and made me strong.
37 You made a pathway for my steps,
And thus I did not go astray.
38 I then went forth to find my foes,
And overtook them on the way;

- Nor did I turn my back on them
Until I had defeated them;
39 I struck them down, they could not rise,
They fell defeated at my feet.

III. God Puts My Enemies to Flight

- 40 But it was you who gave me strength
That I might conquer all my foes;
41 You put them all to flight, O Lord,
Dispersed all those who hated me.
42 They cried for help, but there was none;
They called the Lord, he heard them not;
43 As dust is swirled by blowing winds,
As mud is trampled on the streets,
I swept them up and scattered them.

IV. God Grants Me Victory

- 44 You saved me from my people's hate,
You made me king of many lands;
And peoples, who were strange to me,
You made them subject to my rule;
45 They quickly heeded my commands;
But those, who came from foreign lands,
And flattered me with words of praise,
46 Grew faint and weak at what they saw:
They trembled at the very thought
That they had left their native land.

V. Prayer of Thanks for Victory

- 47 Long live the Lord, and blessed be God!
My rock and Savior, praised be you!

- 48 You helped me conquer all my foes,
You made them subject to my rule,
49 You set me over all my foes,
And from the violent rescued me.
- 50 So now I sing new hymns of praise,
Proclaim your name through all the lands:
51 My triumphs through your help were gained;
You showed great love and kindness, Lord,
To your anointed, chosen king,
To David and his sons and heirs.

Psalm 19 (18)

THE GLORY OF GOD

A. The Handiwork of God in the Universe

I. The Heavens, Sun, Moon, and Stars

- 2 The heavens declare your glory, Lord,
The skies proclaim your handiwork,
3 The sun gives forth its light to day,
Each day pours out the word to day;
The moon and stars give light to night,
Each night imparts the news to night;
4 No sound, no speech, no word is heard,
5 And yet their voice is clearly heard,
Throughout the world their voice resounds,
Proclaims the glory of the Lord,
To farthest bounds of all the earth.

II. Day and Night, Heat and Light

- And in the sky the Lord has set
A tabernacle for the sun,
6 Which like a groom in fine array
Or like a giant in a race,
7 Appearing at the dawn of day,
Comes forth with joy to run its course,
To shed its heat and light on all;
At close of day, its course now run,
Far in the west, with bright display,
Into its tent it goes again,
All through the night to rest again.

B. The Laws of God**I. The Laws of God Are Perfect**

- 8 Your laws, O Lord, are perfect,
They give us life and comfort;
Your wise decrees are truthful,
They guide the poor and lowly;
9 Your precepts, Lord, are righteous,
They fill our hearts with gladness;
And your commands are faultless,
They take away our blindness;
10 Your words, O Lord, are holy,
They promise life forever;
Your judgments, Lord, are truthful,
Are based on love and justice,
11 Above all gold more precious
Than any finest metal,
And sweeter than the honey
From honeycomb extracted.

II. Cleanse Me, Lord, from Sin and Guilt

- 12 I truly strive to keep your laws
And carefully observe them, Lord;
- 13 But who can know his hidden faults?
From these offenses cleanse me, Lord;
- 14 Preserve me from all sinful pride
And let it not rule over me;
And then I shall be whole and pure
And cleansed from all my sin and guilt.
- 15 Let all my words of voice and tongue,
And all my thoughts of mind and heart
Find favor in your sight, O Lord,
My rock, my Savior, and my God.

Psalm 20 (19)**THE KING IS THREATENED
BY ENEMIES*****I. The People Pray for Their King***

- 2 O may the Lord see your distress
And, in the day of trial and pain,
The God of Jacob be your help,
- 3 From Zion may he give you strength,
Assist you from his holy Mount;
- 4 May he be mindful of your cause,
And may each sacrifice you make
Be pleasing in the sight of God;

- 5 And may he grant your heart's desire,
And help you do what you have planned.
- 6 May we then share the victory,
And raise the banners of the Lord
In honor of his holy name.

II. They Trust God Will Help Their King

- May God give ear to your requests!
- 7 I know the Lord will help our king;
He heard his prayer from on high,
And with the strength of his right hand
Will grant him perfect victory:
- 8 Some rely on rumbling chariots,
Some on strong and sturdy horses;
As for us, we look for triumph
In the name of God our Savior.
- 9 Though our foes fall down before us,
We shall stand erect and upright.
- 10 O Lord, grant victory to our king,
And answer when we call on you.

Psalm 21 (20)**THANKSGIVING FOR THE KING'S
VICTORY*****I. Thanks to God for the King's Victory***

- 2 Our king rejoices greatly, Lord,
Because it was your strength and power
That gained for him a victory.
- 3 You granted him his heart's desire,
The prayer of his lips you heard,
- 4 Choice blessings you reserved for him:
A crown of finest gold was his;
- 5 You gave him life and length of days;
- 6 You gave him glorious victory;
You honored him with majesty,
With splendor you surrounded him;
- 7 And many blessings came through him,
As in your presence he rejoiced.
- 8 And thus our king stands firm and strong
Through favor of the Lord most high,
Because he loves and trusts the Lord.

II. May the King Conquer All His Foes

- 9 May you, O king, reach all your foes,
And may you find all those who hate;
- 10 They will then burn as if by fire
When you appear to challenge them.

- The Lord in anger will then come
To strike them down and conquer them:
And fiery flames will swallow them;
- 11 Their race will vanish from the earth,
Their offspring will not long prevail.
- 12 Though they may strive to harm you, king,
Their evil plots will not succeed,
- 13 For you will put them all to flight,
And aim your arrows straight at them.
- 14 Arise, O Lord, with all your strength,
We sing and praise your mighty power.

Psalm 22A (21A)

SUFFERINGS OF THE MESSIAH

1. Mental Suffering of the Messiah

- 2 My God, have you forsaken me?
You seem so far away from me,
From all my pleadings and my cries;
- 3 I cry to you by day, O Lord,
But you have failed to answer me;
And in the night I call on you,
Yet even then I find no rest,
You do not seem to hear me, Lord.
- 4 Enthroned on high, you are, O Lord,
The glory of all Israel;

- 5 In you our fathers placed their hope,
With faith they put their trust in you;
You saved them and delivered them
From all their foes, without delay.
- 6 You saved them when they cried to you;
They put their trust and hope in you,
And were not put to shame, O Lord.
- 7 But I am now more like a worm,
No longer treated with respect,
But scorned by all, despised by them:
- 8 For all who see me scoff at me
They laugh at me and wag their heads;
They curl their lips and sneer at me:
- 9 “He trusted in the Lord, his God,
So let his God deliver him,
And save him if he loves him so.”
- 10 Since I was born you guided me;
You gave me hope and confidence
When I was in my mother’s arms;
- 11 I have since then belonged to you,
And from my mother’s very womb
You are my one and only God.
- 12 O Lord, do not abandon me,
Do not go far away from me,
For I am troubled and distressed;
Stay close to me and help me, Lord,
There is no other help for me.

II. Bodily Suffering of the Messiah

- 13 Around me many bullocks stand,
Surrounding me, encircling me,
The bulls of Bashan hem me in,
- 14 Like roaring lions, raging mad,
With open mouths they slander me
And pour out all their hate on me.
- 15 But, as for me, I have become
Like water poured upon the ground,
My strength has all been drained away;
My bones are weak and out of joint;
My heart has now become like wax
And, deep within me, melts away.
- 16 My throat is dry as sun-baked clay,
My tongue clings to my aching jaws;
You brought me to the brink of death,
And I already saw the grave.
- 17 The wicked have surrounded me,
Like prowling dogs, they hemmed me in;
They pierced my hands and pierced my feet;
The pain and suffering is so great
- 18 That I can number all my bones.
- They looked at me, they stared at me,
And mocking me, they all rejoiced;
- 19 They shared my clothes among themselves,
But for my tunic they cast lots.

III. Prayer for Deliverance

- 20 Go not far away, O Lord,
You are all my strength and power;
Help me, Lord, without delay.
- 21 Save me from the sword of foes,
Save me in my loneliness,
Save me from the pack of dogs,
- 22 Save me from the lion's mouth,
Save me from the horns of bulls,
Save me in my misery.

Psalm 22B (21B)**THE MESSIAH THANKS GOD
FOR DELIVERANCE*****I. Prayer of Thanks for Redemption***

- 23 I now proclaim your name to all,
I praise you in the sight of all:
- 24 "All you who fear the Lord, give praise:
You sons of Jacob, worship him;
Revere him, sons of Israel;
- 25 For he has not disdained nor scorned
The suffering man in misery;
Nor has he turned away from him,
But when the poor man cried to him,
He answered him without delay."

26 O Lord, you now inspire me
To sing your praise in sight of all,
To pay my vows before all those
Who fear the Lord and trust in him.

27 The lowly shall receive their fill,
They shall be given food to eat;
By seeking God and praising him,
They shall be happy evermore.

II. May All the Nations Turn to God

28 The ends of all the earth, O Lord,
Shall not forget to turn to you,
And all the nations of the earth
Shall bow to you within your sight.

29 For all dominion is the Lord's,
He rules the nations far and wide;
30 And those who slumber in the grave
Shall bow to him, and him alone.

III. Proclaim God's Glory for All Ages

My soul shall live for God alone,
31 My children shall all worship him;
Let future generations know
That God is Lord of all the earth;
32 And may they loud proclaim the Lord
To those who have not yet been born:
These things the Lord our God has done,
His justice he has shown to all.

Psalm 23 (22)**THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD*****I. The Lord Provides All Good Things for Us***

- 1 My shepherd is the Lord, my God,
With him I shall not ever want;
- 2 His verdant pastures give repose;
He leads me to the running streams,
Where I may rest, my soul refresh.
- 3 He guides and leads me on right paths,
And as a loving shepherd should,
He guards and watches over me;
- 4 If I should walk on darksome paths
And in the sombre shades of death,
No threat of evil need I fear,
For you are at my side, O Lord,
Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

II. The Lord Provides for Us Abundantly

- 5 A banquet you prepare for me
Within the sight of all my foes,
Your table spread as for a guest;
You pour sweet ointments on my head,
The cup you give me overflows;
- 6 Your loving kindness follows me
Through all my days of life on earth.

May I then dwell within your house
For years to come, for ever, Lord.

Psalm 24 (23)

**THE LORD'S SOLEMN ENTRY
INTO ZION**

I. The Lord is Coming

- 1 The Lord rules over all the earth,
The world and all who dwell in it;
He governs all contained in it;
- 2 He placed it firmly on the seas,
Upon the waters founded it.

II. He Calls Us to Innocence of Life

- 3 Now who can climb God's holy mount,
Where he will find the Lord's domain
And may forever there abide?
- 4 They whose hands are clean and sinless,
They whose hearts are pure and upright;
They who do not seek vain glory,
They who do not bear false witness,
Do not, under oath, swear falsely:
- 5 These will all receive a blessing.
God their Savior will reward them;
- 6 Such as these are truly seeking
For the face of Jacob's God.

III. Let Us Welcome the King of Glory

- 7 Lift up high your gates, O Zion
Open wide your ancient portals,
Welcome now the King of glory!

8 “Who is this great King of glory?”

“He is God, the Lord almighty,
He is God, the strong and mighty,
Strong against his foes in battle.”

9 Lift up high your gates, O Zion,
Open wide your ancient portals,
Welcome now the King of glory!

10 “Who is this great King of glory?”

“He is Lord of heaven’s armies,
He is truly King of glory!”

Psalm 25 (24)

PRAYER FOR MERCY AND FORGIVENESS

I. Prayer for Guidance

- 1 I lift my soul to you, O Lord;
- 2 My God, in you alone I trust;
So let me not be put to shame,
Nor let my foes deride me, Lord.
- 3 All those who place their hope in you
Shall have no cause to feel ashamed;
But those who break their faith with you
Shall suffer from their guilt and shame.

- 4 O teach me, Lord, your ways and paths,
5 Instruct and guide me in your truth,
For you are God, my Savior, Lord,
In you alone I place my hope.
- 6 Recall your many mercies, Lord,
Your many kindnesses of old;
You always have been merciful;
- 7 Remember not my sins of youth,
Remember not my weaknesses,
Because you are so good, O Lord.

II. Prayer for Forgiveness

- 8 The Lord is always good and just;
He looks for sinners gone astray,
9 To guide them on the way of truth;
The lowly and the poor he leads
Upon the way of holiness.
- 10 The Lord's own ways are faith and love,
Great kindness and fidelity
For those who keep his covenant,
Observing all his wise decrees.
- 11 Because of your own name, O Lord,
Forgive me, for my sins are great.
- 12 To all who fear and love the Lord,
He shows the way on which to walk;
13 And they shall live in happiness,
Their children shall possess the land.

- 14 For he will always be a friend
Of those who love and fear the Lord;
And he will keep his covenant,
To teach and guide them on the way.
- 15 My eyes are ever on the Lord,
For he will snatch me from the snare,
The snare which enemies have laid.

III. Prayer for Protection

- 16 Have mercy, Lord, and look on me,
Afflicted with great misery,
17 Remove all sadness from my heart,
And set me free from my distress.
- 18 Remove the anguish of my guilt,
Forgive me all my sins, O Lord,
19 Behold, how many are my foes,
Who hate me with a violent hate.
- 20 Preserve my life and rescue me,
And let me not be put to shame
For having called upon your help.
- 21 May innocence and goodness, Lord,
Preserve and guard me evermore,
For I shall always hope in you.
- 22 O God, save Israel from distress!

Psalm 26 (25)

**PRAYER OF THE INNOCENT
FALSELY ACCUSED**

I. Be You My Judge, O Lord

- 1 Defend me and uphold my cause,
For I have walked in innocence;
Your judgments, Lord, I know are right,
In you I place my trust and hope;
- 2 My soul is open to your search,
My heart is ready for the test.

II. My Life is All before You, Lord

- 3 Your kindness is before my eyes,
And in your truth I walk and live,
- 4 I linger not with sinful men,
Nor do I join with hypocrites;
- 5 I do not plot with evil men
Nor do I seek their counsel, Lord.
- 6 I wash my hands in innocence,
I walk around your altar, Lord,
- 7 Your praise I loud proclaim with thanks
And tell of all your wondrous deeds.
- 8 I love the beauty of your house,
The place where you in glory dwell.

III. Condemn Me Not with Evildoers, Lord

- 9 O Lord, do not abandon me,

- With sinners cast me not aside,
Condemn me not with men of blood;
10 Their hands are full of sin and crime,
Their right hand offers only bribes
To catch and trap the innocent.
- 11 But I have walked in innocence,
Redeem me, therefore, save me, Lord;
12 I walk the way of righteousness,
The way of your decrees, O Lord;
I bless your name, and sing your praise
In sight of all the people, Lord.

Psalm 27A (26A)

TRUST IN GOD

1. I Place All My Trust in You, O Lord

- 1 The Lord is my light and salvation,
The Lord is my refuge and life;
I know of no other to fear,
For whom should I fear but the Lord?
- 2 When enemies come to attack
And seek to devour my flesh,
It is they who will stumble and fall;
- 3 Though enemies set up their camp
And threaten to war against me,

My heart will not tremble or fear,
For you alone, Lord, I shall trust.

II. My Joy Is to Be in Your Temple, Lord

- 4 One favor I ask of the Lord:
To dwell in his house all my life,
To share all the beauty and joy
That we in his temple shall find;
To share in the heavenly sight
When we shall see God as he is.
- 5 O Lord, when the troubles of life
Are more than my strength can endure,
Then hide and conceal me, O Lord,
And shelter me in your abode,
Where I shall be safe in your tent
Set up in your heavenly home,
High up on a rock firm and strong.
- 6 Then safe from my foes on all sides,
I look upon them from on high,
As in the Lord's tent I abide
And offer him worship and praise,
With shouts of great gladness and joy,
While singing the praises of God.

Psalm 27B (26B)
DESIRE TO SEE GOD

I. Abandon Me Not, O Lord

- 7 O Lord, hear my voice as I cry,
Have mercy and answer my prayer;
8 I speak from the heart when I say:
“Your face I desire to see;”
Do not remain hidden from me,
For you are my help and my strength.

- Reject not your servant, O Lord,
And cast me not off in your wrath;
Abandon me not, O my God,
For you are my Savior and Lord;
10 Though father and mother should fail
Or even abandon me, Lord,
I trust you will come to my aid.

II. Protect Me Against My Foes

- 11 O teach me your way and your truth,
And lead me on paths that are straight,
Because of my foes that may lurk
To catch me and make me their prey.
- 12 O give me not up to my foes
Since all my accusers speak lies,
And seek to do violence to me.
- 13 I truly believe and I hope
To see the good things of the Lord
And share in the Vision of God.

- 14 With courage and hearts that are stout
We wait for the Lord till he comes.

Psalm 28 (27)

**URGENT PETITION AND
THANKSGIVING**

1. Protect me, Lord, Against My Foes

- 1 O Lord, you are my rock and strength,
In my great need, I call on you;
In your great mercy, hear my plea;
For if you do not listen, Lord,
I shall be cast into the pit.
- 2 With pleading voice I cry to you,
With begging hands I call for help:
O listen to my prayer, Lord.
- 3 I beg you, do not cast me off
With hateful evildoers, Lord:
They praise their neighbors with their lips,
But harbor evil in their hearts.
- 4 You will in time repay them, Lord,
According to their evil deeds;
And you will judge them by their works
And give them what is due to them.
- 5 Because they give no heed to you,
Nor to your wondrous works, O Lord,

You will destroy and tear them down,
And never build them up again.

II. I Rejoice Because You Heard My Plea

- 6 Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard
My pleading voice and urgent cry;
7 The Lord is my great strength and shield;
I place my hope and trust in him,
For he has come to my defense.

I now rejoice and praise the Lord,
In psalms and hymns I give him thanks.

III. Save Your People, Lord

- 8 You are the strength and shield, O Lord,
Of all your own anointed ones;
You are their sole salvation, Lord,
Their refuge in the time of trial.
9 O save your people, bless us, Lord,
For we are your anointed ones;
Provide and care for us each day
And bring us to eternal life.

Psalm 29 (28)

GOD'S POWER IN NATURE

I. Let Us Praise the Lord

- 1 Give praise to the Lord of all glory,
Give praise that is due to his name;

O people of God, give him glory,
Proclaim his great power and might
With holy and splendid array.

II. Behold God's Power in Nature

- 3 The voice of the Lord in the thunder
Rolls over the mountains and seas;
- 4 The voice of the Lord is almighty,
His voice is majestic and clear.
- 5 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars,
The cedars of Lebanon fall,
- 6 The mountains of Lebanon tremble
And leap like a frolicking calf;
Mount Hermon skips like a young ox.
- 7 The voice of the Lord flashes lightning,
Bright flashes of lightning that blind;
- 8 The voice of the Lord shakes the desert,
The desert of Kadesh he shakes:
- 9 The voice of the Lord twists the oak trees
And strips them of branches and leaves.

Let all of us therefore give glory
And praise him with songs on the harp.

III. Bless us, Lord, with New Strength

- 10 The Lord is enthroned in the heavens,
Enthroned high above all the earth;
The Lord is our King and our Ruler,
Will rule us for ages to come.

- 11 The Lord gives new strength to his people,
He blesses his people with peace!

Psalm 30 (29)

THE LORD PUNISHES AND HEALS

I. Gratitude to God

- 2 I thank you, Lord, for saving me;
You kept my foes from harming me
And from rejoicing over me.
- 3 O Lord, my God, I cried to you,
You answered me and healed me, Lord;
- 4 You saved me from the brink of death,
You saved me from the nether world,
From being cast into the pit.
- 5 Praise God, you holy ones, sing praise,
And all you faithful, praise his name;
- 6 The anger of the Lord is brief,
His mercy is for evermore.

Though weeping may at evening come,
The morning will bring joy again.

II. Acknowledgment of Sin

- 7 In my good fortune I once thought
That I would never be disturbed,
That my good fortune would remain;

- 8 With honors you had favored me,
With power you had strengthened me;
But when you hid your face from me,
I soon was weak and filled with fear.

III. Humble Prayer for Mercy

- 9 I then cried out to you, O Lord,
I asked for mercy and implored:
10 “What profit would you gain from me
If I were cast into the pit?
Would dust give any thanks to you?
Or make your faithfulness be known?”
11 Give ear, O Lord, and pity me,
And be my helper and my guide.

IV. Joy in Being Forgiven

- 12 You changed my sadness into joy,
My sackcloth you removed from me
And clothed me with a robe of joy.
13 I shall not cease to praise you, Lord,
And give you thanks for evermore.

Psalm 31 (30)
THANKS FOR HELP
IN GREAT DISTRESS

1. Come, O Lord, and Rescue Me

- 2 To you I flee for refuge, Lord,
So let me not be put to shame;
3 Give ear and listen to my plea,
And in your justice free me, Lord;
O answer me without delay.

- Come, rescue me and make me free,
You are my rock and shelter, Lord,
4 My rock and fortress, firm and strong,
Where dangers cannot threaten me;
For you will teach and guide me, Lord,
And for the honor of your name
Will lead me on to victory.
- 5 My foes have set a snare for me,
But you, my refuge, keep me safe,
And free me from my enemies.
6 Into your hands I now commend
My spirit, Lord, and make this plea:
That you will save me from my foes,
O ever faithful Lord and God.
- 7 I know that you reject all those
Who worship false and pagan gods;
In you I therefore put my trust.
8 I shall be glad and joyful, Lord,

- When you have seen my misery
And with divine compassion, Lord,
With any kindness you may show,
You care for me in my distress;
9 O guard me, Lord, against my foes
That I be not hemmed in by them,
But may be free to move about.

II. Save Me, Lord, from My Enemies

- 10 O Lord, be merciful to me,
From all my troubles make me free:
My eyes are dim, my body weak;
My soul is troubled deep within;
11 My life is shortened by my grief;
My passing years are full of pain;
My strength has failed me in distress;
My very bones are growing weak;
12 My foes look down on me with scorn;
My neighbors mock and laugh at me;
My friends now shy away from me
And when in public I appear,
All those who see me flee from me.
- 13 Much like the long forgotten dead
Or like a shattered, broken dish,
My presence is ignored by all.
14 I hear the hissing of the crowd,
They frighten me on every side,
Together they assemble now
And plot to take my life away.
15 But I still trust in you, O Lord;
I say: "You are my Lord and God!"

16 My life is in your loving hands.

O save me from my enemies,
From all who seek to harm me, Lord;

17 Let all the brightness of your face
Shine down on me, your servant, Lord;
In your great kindness rescue me.

18 O let me never be ashamed
To call on you, my Lord and God!

The wicked soon will be ashamed
As silence you impose on them
And cast them down into the grave;

19 Their lying lips will then be closed.
No more to speak with scorn and hate
Against the just and innocent.

III. The Lord is My Strength

20 How wonderful your goodness, Lord,
Which you have kept in store for those
Who fear your name and reverence you,
And which you show in sight of all
To those who call on you for help.

21 You shield them by your presence, Lord,
Against the plots of evil men;
You shelter them in your abode,
From vicious tongues you spare them, Lord.

22 I thank you for your mercy, Lord;
Your mercy has renewed my strength,
For you have watched and sheltered me
As in a fortress built on rock.

- 23 In my dismay I once had said:
“I am an outcast from your sight!”
But you gave ear and heard my plea,
You answered when I cried to you.
- 24 So love the Lord, you faithful ones,
He guards all those who keep his word;
But as for those who act with pride,
He gives to them what they deserve.
- 25 Take courage then, be stout of heart,
All you who hope and trust in God.

Psalm 32 (31)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

1. Happiness in Being Freed from Guilt

- 1 How happy they whose sins and faults
With all their guilt are wiped away,
2 Whose spirit harbors no deceit,
To whom the Lord imputes no blame.

1. The Sinner's Misery

- 3 I did not first admit my guilt,
Did not confess my sin to you,
But then the heavy weight of guilt,
With never ending sighs and groans,
Made all my bones feel frail and weak.

- 4 Both day and night your heavy hand
Was on my head, and all my strength
Was slowly drained and all dried up
As if exposed to summer heat.
- 5 I then resolved I would confess,
Acknowledge all my sins to you,
Concealing nothing from your sight.
I said: "I now confess my sins,"
And thereupon you cleansed me, Lord,
And washed my sins and guilt away.
- 6 Hence those who live an upright life
Should call on you in time of need,
That when the raging waters come
To draw them down into the depths,
They may be rescued from the flood.
- 7 You are my shelter and my shield,
With you I am secure and safe,
From stress and strain you save me, Lord,
Your words bring peace and joy to me:

III. Admonition Not to Be Like Animals

- 8 "I will teach you understanding,
I will teach you words of wisdom,
I will lead you safely onward,
Guarding you with loving kindness,
On the way that you should walk.
- 9 "Be not like a horse unbridled,
Be not like a stubborn donkey:
Both are lacking understanding;

Only with a bit and bridle,
Only when such force restrains them,
Can their wildness be directed;
Otherwise, they run off freely,
And will stay away from man.”

IV. Hope in God Brings Joy to the Soul

Let our fear of God be trusting,
Let us not depart from him,
Let us not be forced to serve him,
But with gladness worship him.

- 10 Many sorrows plague the wicked;
But for those who hope in God,
God will tender them his mercy
And will show them loving care.

All you just and upright people,
Come, rejoice in God your Savior.

Psalm 33 (32)

GOD'S DIVINE PROVIDENCE

I. Let Us Thank God for All His Works

- 1 Those living by God's holy law
Should duly give thanks to the Lord
For all of his wonderful works:

- 2 Give thanks to the Lord on the harp,
Sing praise to the Lord on the lyre,
On the ten-stringed harp sing his praise.
- 3 O sing a new song to his name
While skilfully playing the harp;
Sing joyous and jubilant songs.
- 4 The words of the Lord and his works
Are worthy of praise and of trust;
- 5 He loves what is right and is just,
He floods the whole world with his grace.

II. God Created the Heavens and the Earth

- 6 The heavens were made by his word;
The sun and the planets and stars
Were made by the breath of his mouth.
- 7 He gathered together the seas,
He gathered them all into one,
He holds them as if in a dish;
He stores up the wild roaring waves
And keeps them confined to the deep.

III. God Rules over the Whole World

- 8 Let all stand in awe of the Lord,
And praise all his wonderful works,
Let all on the earth fear the Lord
And let them show reverence for him.
- 9 He merely commanded and spoke
And all was created and formed,
Created and formed by his word.

- 10 He frustrates the plans of the nations,
He breaks up the schemes of the peoples,
The plots of all those who resist him.
- 11 The plans of the Lord stand forever,
The will of the Lord never falters,
From age unto age he will govern
And rule all the world with his wisdom.
- 12 O happy the nation and people
Selected by God in his mercy
And chosen to be his own people.

IV. God Knows All Our Thoughts and Actions

- 13 The Lord, looking down from his heaven.
14 Is watching and cares for us all:
15 He knows all our thoughts and our actions;
Our hearts he had formed when he made us,
Creating us to his own image.

V. God Looks Kindly Upon His Faithful Ones

- 16 The king is not saved by his army,
Although it be mighty in power;
- 17 The soldier all ready for battle
Will not find salvation in horses:
The speed and the power of horses
Will not of themselves save the rider.
- 18 The eyes of the Lord look with favor
On all those who fear and revere him,
On those who have hope in his mercy
And trust in his kindness to save them,
- 19 To save them from death and from famine.

VI. Trust in God Brings Joy and Delight

- 20 We eagerly long for the Lord,
For he is our rock and our shield,
21 In him we find joy and delight,
In him we have placed all our hope.
- 22 We beg of you, show us your mercy,
We place all our hope in your name.

Psalm 34 (33)**GOD PROTECTS THE JUST*****I. Let Us Praise the Lord***

- 2 The Lord I will bless at all times,
My mouth ever filled with his praise,
3 The glory of God fills my soul,
The lowly will hear and rejoice.
4 Give glory with me to the Lord
And let us together give praise,
Give praise to the name of the Lord.

II. Trust in God for He is Good

- 5 I looked for the Lord and he heard,
He took away all of my fears.
6 Look up to the Lord and be glad
That you may rejoice in his name
And need not be covered with shame.

- 7 Alone and unhappy, I cried,
I prayed, and the Lord heard my plea,
He saved me from all my distress.
- 8 The Lord sent his angel to help,
The angel then set up his camp
To rescue all those who fear God.
- 9 Behold the great goodness of God!
O taste and experience his love!
His presence gives comfort and hope
To all who seek refuge in him.
- 10 For nothing is wanting to those
Who faithfully worship the Lord
With reverence and fear in their heart;
- 11 The mighty grow hungry and poor,
But those who seek God in their hearts
Will be blessed with all that is good.

III. Promise of Happiness

- 12 My children, come near to me now
And listen to what I will say
Concerning the fear of the Lord:
- 13 Does anyone look for long life?
Does anyone seek the good life?
If truly you wish to have life
And wish to enjoy the good things
Which God has bestowed upon us:
- 14 Then keep your tongue from evil speech
And guard your lips from telling lies;
- 15 Stay far away from wicked deeds
And cling to good and noble deeds,
Pursue and strive for lasting peace.

- 16 The Lord has his eyes on the just,
He listens to pleas of the just;
- 17 The wicked he scorns and rejects,
And every remembrance of them
Will be without honor or praise.
- 18 The just, when they cry to the Lord,
Will not be abandoned by him;
He listens to them and gives ear,
He rescues them from their distress.
- 19 The troubled and contrite of heart,
Whose spirits are broken and sad,
Will find the Lord close at their side
To rescue them from their distress,
To give them new life and new hope.
- 20 Though many the trials of the just,
From all of them they will be saved,
The Lord will be near at their side.
- 21 The Lord watches over the just,
He guards all the bones of the just,
Not even one bone will be crushed.
- 22 The wicked, however, hate God:
Their hatred for all that is good
Has driven them down to their death.
As foes of the just they must pay
The price of their sins and their crimes.
- 23 But those who seek refuge in God
Will find their deliverance through him,
Will find their salvation in him,
Nor will they be punished by him.

Psalm 35 (34)

**PRAYER AGAINST FALSE
ACCUSATIONS**

I. Drive Away My Enemies, Lord

- 1 Turn away those who fight against me,
War against those who war against me,
- 2 Take up the shield and be my defense,
- 3 Balance the spear and drive far away
Those who pursue me, seeking my life;
Speak to me, Lord, for you are my hope;
Tell me: "I am your Savior and Lord!"
- 4 Let them be put to shame and disgrace,
Those who plot evil, seeking my life,
Drive them away and rout them, O Lord,
Fill them with shame who plot against me;
- 5 Blow them away like chaff in the wind,
May the Lord's angel scatter them wide,
- 6 Driving them back through slippery paths,
Paths that are dark where they will get lost.

II. Save Me from Harm, O Lord

- 7 Quite without cause, they set out their snares,
Seeking my life by digging a pit;
- 8 They will be caught by sudden surprise,
Caught in the snares intended for me,
They will themselves fall into the pit,
Into the pit intended for me.

- 9 I shall rejoice with joy in the lord,
Who in his mercy saved me from harm;
10 All of my being joyfully shouts:
“No one, O Lord, is greater than you!”
Stronger than I, they threatened my life.
Yet in my need you rescued me, Lord,
Helping me when I needed you most.
- 11 Violent foes rose up against me,
Pointing at me and slandering me,
Falsely accusing, jeering at me,
12 Paying me back with evil for good,
Making me feel abandoned and sad.

III. Ingratitude of Oppressors

- 13 When they were sick, they never did know
How much I mourned and fasted for them,
Wearing a hairshirt, praying for them,
Humbling myself in penance for them;
14 As for a friend, I did this for them,
As for a brother, I mourned for them,
As for my mother, I wept for them,
Saddened in spirit, I grieved for them.
- 15 When I grew weak and stumbled about
They gathered together rejoicing,
Without any reason they struck me,
16 And tore me to bits without ceasing,
Laughing at me, they showed only scorn,
Gnashing their teeth, they ridiculed me.

IV. Come to My Rescue, Lord

- 17 How long will you look on, O Lord;
O save my life from roaring beasts,
From roaring lions rescue me.
- 18 And I will give you thanks and praise
Before the vast assembled throng,
In sight of all the people, Lord.
- 19 Let not my foes make sport of me,
As knowingly they wink their eyes;
They hate me for no reason, Lord,
They harass me unceasingly.
- 20 They speak no words of peace with me,
But scheme and plot their evil deeds
Against the peaceful of the land.
- 21 They open wide their mouths with hate,
And mockingly they say to me:
“With our own eyes we saw it all!”
- 22 O Lord, you see and know the truth,
Stay near, and go not far away;
And be not silent, Lord, but speak;
- 23 Arise, and come to my defense,
Defend my cause, O Lord, my God;
- 24 Be just to me and judge my cause
According to your justice, Lord,
Lest they should jeer and laugh at me
Because you had abandoned me.
- 25 And may they never say of me
What they desire in their hearts:
“Aha, we had expected this!”

Nor let them ever say of me:
“We have at last devoured him!”

- 26 So let them all be put to shame,
Who laugh at my misfortunes, Lord;
And let them be disgraced and shamed
Who rise against me in their pride.
- 27 May those be glad and shout for joy
Who graciously uphold my cause,
And let them sing: “The Lord be praised,
He always wills the good of those
Who prove to be his faithful ones!”
- 28 My tongue shall sing your justice, Lord,
And sing your praise for evermore.

Psalm 36 (35)

SIN AND GOD’S DIVINE PROVIDENCE

1. The Depths of Sinfulness

- 2 The wickedness in sinners’ hearts
Entices them to further sin;
There is no fear of God in them,
No dread of God before their eyes;
- 3 Their minds are full of self-deceit,
Of vain and empty flattery;

They make themselves believe that they
Will not be punished for their sins,
That they will never be condemned.

- 4 Their mouths are full of sinful words,
Their speech is nothing but deceit,
They do not care what acts are good,
Nor even care how good is done.
- 5 Upon their beds they plot and scheme,
They meditate on evil deeds;
They never leave the path of sin;
They do not even have regret
For all the evil they have done.

II. O God, You Are the Source of Joy and Life

- 6 Your mercy has no bounds, O Lord,
It reaches to the very skies;
Your faithfulness is endless too,
It reaches far beyond the clouds;
- 7 Your justice reaches mountain tops,
Your judgments are like ocean depths,
Mysterious and inscrutable;
From highest peaks to deepest seas
You govern all with wisdom, Lord;
You care for life of every kind,
Providing life for man and beast.
- 8 How precious is your kindness, Lord!
We know that we can find in you
A refuge and a shelter, Lord,
Beneath the shadow of your wings.
- 9 You favor us with lavish gifts,

- The choice provisions of your house;
And at the streams of your delights
You fully satisfy our thirst;
- 10 For us you are the fount of life,
And in your light we see the light.

III. Protect Me, Lord, Against All Wickedness

- 11 Continue with your favor, Lord,
Toward those who worship you in truth;
Do not withdraw your justice, Lord,
From those who keep their hearts sincere.
- 12 Let not the haughty tread on me,
Nor sinners lead me from your way.
- 13 Behold, how sinners go astray,
Their sins destroy and ruin them;
Once fallen down, they rise with pain,
They find it hard to rise again.

Psalm 37 (36)

GOD REWARDS THE GOOD AND PUNISHES THE WICKED

I. Overcome Evil by Doing Good

- 1 Let not the wicked anger you,
Nor let yourself be envious
Of those who walk the way of sin;

- 2 For like the grass they dry up fast,
Like plants and herbs, they quickly fade.
- 3 Do good and put your trust in God
That you may long possess the land,
- 4 And serve the Lord with true delight,
For he will give you what you need;
- 5 With faith commit yourself to God,
And place your hope and trust in him,
For he will answer all your needs.
- 6 With justice he will judge your cause
And make it clear as noonday light
That he has vindicated you.
- 7 Rely on God and wait for him,
Let not the wicked anger you:
They prosper in their way of life,
But all their works are evil deeds.
- 8 Desist from anger, put off wrath,
Lest anger lead you into sin;
- 9 The wicked soon will be destroyed;
But they who hope and trust in God
Will live in peace upon the land.
- 10 Stay calm; in just a little while
The wicked soon shall be no more;
You look for them where they should be,
But find that they have disappeared;
- 11 The meek shall thus possess the land
And take delight in lasting peace.

II. The Wicked Eventually Fade Away

- 12 The wicked plot against the just,
They gnash their teeth against the just;
13 But God will only laugh at them;
He sees the day of judgment near,
When sinners will be judged by him.
14 The wicked draw their sharpened sword,
They bend their bow, with arrow set,
To strike the poor afflicted one,
To slay all those whose way is right;
15 But then their sword shall turn on them
And pierce their own malicious hearts;
Their bows will bend and break in two,
Their arrows still within their hands.
16 Far better is the lot of those
Who walk God's way in poverty,
Than those whose evil way of life
Is vainly centered on their wealth;
17 The wicked soon will lose their strength,
But God upholds and shields the poor.
18 The Lord takes care of all the just,
He makes them heirs for evermore;
19 In evil times they are not shamed,
In times of famine they have food;
20 The wicked soon shall be destroyed;
All those who hate the ways of God
Will soon dry up like meadow grass,
Will fade and vanish like the smoke.

III. The Lord Rewards His Faithful Ones

- 21 The wicked fail to pay their debts,
They borrow, but do not repay;

- The just and honest do repay
And out of kindness freely give;
- 22 All those who are thus blessed by God
Shall peacefully possess the land;
But those who are condemned by God
Shall be destroyed for evermore.
- 23 It is the Lord who strengthens us
And keeps us firm upon the way,
The way that God himself approves;
- 24 At times we may grow weak, and fail;
But if we quickly try to rise
And call upon the Lord for help,
The Lord will lift us up again.
- 25 I once was young and now am old.
But in my life I never saw
A just man's offspring beg for bread,
Or that the Lord forsook the just;
- 26 The just are kindly at all times
And lend to those who are in need;
Their offspring shall be blessed by God.

IV. The Good and the Wicked

- 27 So turn from evil and do good
That you may live for evermore.
- 28 The Lord loves what is right and just,
He does not leave his faithful ones
Alone, uncared for, and ignored;
The wicked soon shall be destroyed,
Their offspring shall be cast away;

- 29 The just will own the land in peace
And live in joy for evermore.
- 30 The just are honest in their speech,
Their tongue speaks what is right and true;
- 31 The law of God is in their heart,
Nor do their steps go far astray.
- 32 The wicked spy upon the just:
They hunt them down and seek their life;
- 33 But God will not neglect the just,
Nor will he let them be subdued
By foes who overpower them;
But he will kindly favor them
And not condemn nor punish them.
- 34 Rely on God and keep his way;
Rely on him and wait for him;
For he will let you own the land
Where you may live in lasting peace
And see the wicked soon destroyed.
- 35 I met a proud and wicked man
Who like a cedar spread himself
And boasted of his strength with pride;
- 36 But as I passed he disappeared;
I looked for him, but he had gone;
I could not find him anywhere.
- 37 See how the just and upright live
And how they worship God their Lord;
Posterity will honor them,
Will praise them for their love of peace;
- 38 But sinners will not long survive,

The Lord will soon destroy them all
And cut down all their progeny.

- 39 Salvation is from God alone;
He saves the just in time of stress;
Their shield and refuge is the Lord
In time of trouble and of need;
- 40 The Lord delivers them from foes,
He shields them from their enemies;
He saves them when they flee to him;
They find repose and peace in him.

Psalm 38 (37)
REPENTANCE OF
AN AFFLICTED SINNER

I. Confession of Sin

- 2 Reject me not in anger, Lord,
And do not strike me down in wrath;
- 3 Your hand is heavy on my head,
Your arrows pierce my flesh and bones;
- 4 There is no healthy part in me,
My flesh is weak and full of pain
Because of your just anger, Lord;
There is no soundness in my bones,
For I have sinned against you, Lord.
- 5 My sins, heaped high upon my head,
Are like a heavy burden, Lord,
They weigh me down with guilt and shame.

II. The Misery of Sin

- 6 Because of my great foolishness
My wounds are ugly, fetid sores,
- 7 My body bent and torn with pain,
I go about in grief all day;
- 8 My limbs are filled with burning pain,
And all my flesh is pale and weak;
- 9 I cry with anguish in my heart,
I grow more feeble every day,
I find myself completely crushed.
- 10 However, Lord, you know my thoughts,
You know how much I long for you,
My sorrow is well known to you;
- 11 My heart is throbbing fast and wild,
My strength is slowly leaving me,
My eyes are growing weak and dim.
- 12 My friends and neighbors come not near
Because of my affliction, Lord,
My kinsmen stand far off from me;
- 13 And those who plot against my life,
Who wish me only evil, Lord,
Whose wicked minds are full of plots,
They scheme and set out snares for me,
They never cease to threaten me.

III. Trust in God Alone

- 14 But like one deaf, I hear them not,
Or like a mute, I answer not;
- 15 I am like one who does not hear,
Who has no answer in his mouth.

- 16 Because I trust in you, O Lord,
I know that you will hear my cry,
17 That you will answer my appeal:
“If I should ever slip and fall,
I beg that they may not find cause
To gloat and glory over me.”

IV. Hasten, Lord, to Help Me

- 18 My grief and sorrow haunt me, Lord,
For I am close to falling now,
19 And I am filled with fear and dread
As I confess my guilt and shame.
- 20 But many strong and mighty foes
Stand firm against me without cause,
They hate me with no cause for hate;
21 Returning evil deeds for good,
They harass me for doing good.
- 22 Do not abandon me, O Lord,
Do not stay far away from me;
23 Come quickly, hasten to my help,
You are my sole salvation, Lord!

Psalm 39 (38)**THE SHORTNESS OF LIFE*****I. Afflicted with Serious Illness***

- 2 I said that I will guard my ways
And place a bridle on my mouth
That with my tongue I may not sin
When hateful foes defy me, Lord.
- 3 I was as one who could not speak,
I kept a perfect silence, Lord;
But soon I found it much too hard
To keep from saying what is good;
- 4 My heart grew hot within me, Lord,
My thoughts were all aflame with fire,
I therefore spoke to you in prayer:

II. Reflection on the Shortness of Life

- 5 O tell me, Lord, when shall I die?
What is the number of my days?
How long will I yet live, O Lord?
That I may know how frail I am;
- 6 The span of human life on earth
Is almost nothing in your sight;
Our life on earth is but a breath;
- 7 We go our ways, then disappear,
A shadow on the walls of time;
Our fears and worries are in vain,
We heap up riches, store up wealth,
But do not know who will some day
Inherit them, make use of them,
Or squander them when we are gone.

III. Free Me from My Sins, O Lord

- 8 Now what may I expect, O Lord?
I hope and trust in you alone;
9 From all my sins deliver me,
And let me not become the scorn
Of foolish wicked sinners, Lord.

IV. Spare Me, Lord, and Save My Life

- 10 I have become as one struck dumb,
I did not speak, did not complain,
Because you had permitted this,
That I should suffer silently.
- 11 But take away your scourge from me;
Your heavy hand upon my head
Will make me slowly waste away;
- 12 You chasten us by your rebukes,
You cleanse us of our wickedness;
And, like a moth, you soon destroy
The things that have been dear to us;
Our life on earth is but a breath.
- 13 Give ear, O Lord, and hear my cry;
Do not ignore my tears and sighs;
For I am but a stranger, Lord,
A guest and stranger in your sight,
A wandering pilgrim on this earth;
Each day I seek for you, O Lord,
As once our fathers sought for you.
- 14 O turn your gaze away from me
And save me from your anger, Lord,

That I may gain new strength again
And for a while may live again
Before I leave this human life
And be no more upon this earth.

Psalm 40A (39A)
OBEDIENCE IS BETTER
THAN SACRIFICE

I. God's Blessings in the Past

- 2 The Lord has always been my hope,
I never ceased to trust in him;
He heard my cry and stooped toward me,
3 He drew me from the pit of death,
He saved me from the mud and filth;
He placed my feet upon a rock,
He made my steps secure and firm.
4 Upon my tongue he placed a song,
A hymn of thanks unto our God,
And many, when they hear of this,
Will look with awe and reverence,
Will turn to God and trust in him.

II. God's Wondrous Works Are Numberless

- 5 How happy those who trust in God,
Who do not join idolaters
To worship false and pagan gods;
Nor do they turn to those who plot
And work at false and wicked schemes.

- 6 O Lord, my God, your wondrous works
Are numberless beyond all count;
And, in providing for our needs,
No one can ever equal you;
Were I to speak of all your works,
Of all the blessings we receive,
The favors you bestow on us
Would be too many to recount.

III. Obedience is Better than Sacrifice

- 7 Mere sacrifice or offerings, Lord,
You do not want and do not need;
You gave me ears that I may hear
And be obedient to your word;
You did not ask for holocausts
Nor any other offerings, Lord;
You want much more than holocausts;
- 8 And then I said: "Behold, I come;
For in the sacred books I read
What has been written there of me:
- 9 To do your will is my delight,
Your law is deep within my heart!"
- 10 I had proclaimed your justice, Lord,
To all the people gathered round;
And in their midst I freely spoke
Without restraint, as you well know;
- 11 Nor did I keep your justice hid
As some great secret of my heart,
But I proclaimed your faithfulness,
How you had helped and saved me, Lord;

And to the vast assembled throng
I spoke of your fidelity,
Of favors you bestowed on me.

Psalm 40B (39B)

CRY FOR HELP IN DIRE DISTRESS

I. The Misery of Sin

- 12 Deny me not your mercy, Lord,
And may your kindness and your truth
Preserve and shield me from all sin;
For evils far beyond all count
Surround me, Lord, on every side.
- 13 My sins so overwhelm me
That I no longer see nor hear;
Their number is much greater, Lord,
Than all the hairs upon my head,
My courage has thus failed me, Lord.

II. God is Our Only Help and Shield

- 14 Be pleased, O Lord, to rescue me,
Come quickly, hasten to my aid;
- 15 And those who seek to take my life,
Who take delight in taunting me,
Who gloat and jeer at my distress,
- 16 Who say to me: "Aha! Aha!"
Let them be made to suffer shame;

**May they be turned away from me,
In their confusion and disgrace.**

**17 But those who seek your face, O Lord,
May they be glad and filled with joy;
May those, who look to you for help,
Cry out: "The Lord be ever praised!"**

**18 Afflicted as I am, and poor,
You still provide and care for me;
Do not delay to heed my cry,
You are my only help and shield,
For you are my salvation, Lord.**

Psalm 41 (40)

PRAYER FOR DIVINE CONSOLATION

1. Reflection on God's Mercy

- 2 How happy those who have regard
For all the lowly and the poor;
The Lord in turn will be their shield
In time of trouble and distress.**
- 3 The Lord will give them life and strength,
The Lord will guard and shelter them
And make them happy on this earth;
Nor will he let them be subdued
And handed over to their foes;**

- 4 The Lord will help them in distress,
Will help them on their bed of pain,
Will take away their feebleness
That they might gain their former strength.

II. Sad and Discouraged in Illness

- 5 And now I pray: Have pity, Lord,
And heal my soul, for I have sinned;
- 6 My foes have only words of hate;
With scorn they say among themselves:
“O when shall we be rid of him?
And why does he persist in life?
Why does he not depart this life?
So that his name be stricken out
From all remembrance of the past.”
- 7 And then at times they visit me
And talk without sincerity;
They speak of only foolish things,
But in their hearts they store up lies,
And when they leave they slander me;
- 8 All those who have contempt for me
Together whisper secretly,
Exchanging thoughts of scorn for me,
Which they have harboured in their minds,
And thus bring serious harm to me.
- 9 And in their hate they say of me:
“A grave disease has brought him low;
Just let him lie upon his bed,
For he will never rise again.”
- 10 And even one good friend of mine,

In whom I had the greatest trust,
With whom I often shared my bread,
Came by one day and raised his heel,
He raised his heel against me, Lord.

III. God Alone Can Heal and Save Me

- 11 But you, O Lord, be kind to me,
Be merciful and lift me up,
Uphold my cause, defend me, Lord,
12 And thus assure me of your love,
That love by which you favored me,
So that my foes may never gloat
In jeering triumph over me;
13 And may you always keep me safe,
Preserve me in my innocence,
That I may one day see your face
And stand before you evermore.

Blessed be the God of Israel,
The Lord our God, for evermore.

Amen. Amen.

BOOK TWO

Psalms 42-72 (41-71)

Psalm 42 (41)

ARDENT DESIRE FOR GOD

1. Yearning for God

- 2 As the deer seeks running streams,
So I yearn for you, my God!
- 3 All my being thirsts for God,
Searches for the living God.
When shall I be called, O Lord?
When shall I behold your face?
- 4 Tears are now my daily bread
As my foes surround me, Lord,
Day and night they say to me:
“Where now is that God of yours?”
- 5 All these things I now recall,
Pouring out my soul to you:
Throngs of people gathered round,
And I walked ahead of them,
Led them to the house of God,
Midst the sounds of joy and praise,
Midst the festive gathering.

- 6 Why are you cast down, my soul?
Why so troubled and disturbed?
Firmly place your trust in God,
He is Savior of us all:

Once again, with hymns of praise,
I will thank the Lord my God,
For he saved me from my foes.

II. Turning to God

- 7 Sadness deep within my soul
Prompts me now to turn to you:
I recall your wondrous works
At the source of Jordan's stream,
On mount Hermon's snowy heights,
On Mount Mizar's grassy slopes,
Where you hid me from my foes;
- 8 I recall the roaring falls
Thundering down the mountain side;
And the wild and stormy waves;
All of these rushed over me,
So it seemed, in my distress,
When I was in exile there.
- 9 In the daytime may the Lord
Through his kindness show me grace,
Then at nighttime I will sing,
Sing a hymn of praise and thanks
To my God, the Lord of life.
- 10 Now I say to God my rock:
"Why do you forget me, Lord?"

Why do I go sorrowful?
Why am I by foes oppressed?"

1 All my bones, it seems, are crushed,
As my foes insult me, Lord,
While they say to me each day:
"Where now is that God of yours?"

2 Why are you cast down, my soul?
Why so troubled and disturbed?
Firmly place your trust in God,
He is Savior of us all:

Once again, with hymns of praise,
I will thank the Lord my God,
For he saved me from my foes.

Psalm 43 (42)

ARDENT DESIRE FOR GOD

1. Joy and Peace in God (Ps. 42 cont'd)

- 1 Do me justice, Lord, my God,
Plead my cause and rescue me,
Free me and deliver me
From a godless nation, Lord;
From oppressors make me free,
And from all who plot deceit.
- 2 You have always been my strength,
You have been my courage, Lord;

Why do you abandon me?
Why must I go sorrowful
While my foes oppress me, Lord?

3 May your light and faithfulness
Lead me to your holy hill,
Bring me to your dwelling place;

4 To the altar of my God,
To his altar I will go,
To the God of joy and peace,
To the God of happiness;
I shall render praise to you,
Praise and thanks upon the harp,
Praise to you, my Lord and God.

5 Why are you cast down, my soul?
Why so troubled and disturbed?
Firmly place your trust in God;
He is Savior of us all;

Once again, with hymns of praise,
I will thank the Lord my God,
For he saved me from my foes.

Psalm 44 (43)**PRAYER IN TIME OF AFFLICTION*****God's Wondrous Works Are Recalled***

- 2 Our fathers in the past have told
Of works you did long years ago;
With ears alert we heard them say
- 3 How with your hand you rooted up
And drove out all the godless ones,
The nations that rejected you;
Then planted your own people, Lord,
Upon the land you promised them;
The godless nations you destroyed
And far and wide you scattered them.
- 4 Our fathers then possessed the land,
Not by the wielding of their swords,
Nor by the strength of their own arms,
But by your own right hand, O Lord,
And by the power of your arm,
As by the light of your own face,
And by the love you had for them;
They took possession of the land,
The land which you had promised them.
- 5 O Lord, you are my king and God,
You granted Jacob victory,
- 6 Through you we thrust down all our foes,
And in your name we struck them down
Who fought against us without cause;
- 7 Nor did we bows and arrows trust,
Or think that swords had saved us, Lord;

- 8 For through your mercy we were saved:
You shamed all those who hated us,
And those who had contempt for us.
- 9 We therefore glory in the Lord,
We praise and thank him day and night,
We praise his name unceasingly.

II. God's People Feel Abandoned

- 10 But now you have rejected us,
Abandoned us and shamed us, Lord,
No longer do we have your help,
No longer do you fight for us,
No longer do you side with us.
- 11 You gave us over to our foes,
Who quickly overwhelmed us;
- 12 As sheep for slaughter we were marked,
And soon were scattered far and wide
Amidst the godless nations, Lord.
- 13 You sold us, Lord, it seemed to us,
You sold your people for a price
So paltry that you made no gain.
- 14 You let us be the scorn of all,
The scorn of all around us, Lord:
They mocked and scoffed, derided us;
- 15 You let us be the laughing-stock
Among the godless nations, Lord,
Who wagged their heads and taunted us.
- 16 Each day my shame increases, Lord,
It covers all my head and face,
- 17 As I now live among my foes,

Who hate me and who scoff at me,
Who show their vile contempt for me.

III. The People Plead Their Innocence

- 18 All this has come upon us, Lord,
Although we know not for what cause;
But we have not forgotten you,
Nor have we been disloyal to you,
For we have kept your covenant;
- 19 Our hearts have not turned back from you,
Nor have our steps strayed from your path.
- 20 Although at times you thrust us down
And crushed us with afflictions, Lord,
With awesome darkness over us,
- 21 If then we had forgotten you
Or had not called upon your name,
But had instead stretched out our hands
And called on strange and heathen gods:
- 22 O God, you would have noticed this,
For you alone can read our thoughts,
You know the secrets of our hearts.
- 23 Yet for your sake we have been slain,
Distressed and tortured all the day
And marked as sheep for slaughter, Lord.

IV. The People Beg for God's Help

- 24 Awake, O Lord, why do you sleep?
Rise up, O Lord, reject us not!
- 25 O why do you conceal your face
And do not heed our troubles, Lord?

- 26 Our souls are prostrate in the dust,
Our bodies humbled to the ground;
27 Rise up, O Lord, and help us now
And in your mercy rescue us.

Psalm 45 (44)

THE MESSIAH KING AND HIS BRIDE

I. Introduction

- 2 My heart pours forth a goodly word:
A hymn I sing unto my king,
And may my tongue be like the pen
Of one who writes with art and skill.

II. The Royal Spouse and Bridegroom of the Church

- 3 The grace of God is on your lips,
For he has blessed and favored you,
The fairest of all sons of men,
And made you king for evermore.
- 4 Close at your side now gird your sword,
The symbol of your might and strength;
O great and mighty, noble king,
In majesty and splendor clothed,
- 5 Go forth for truth and justice' sake,
And may your right hand wonders show;
- 6 With sharpened arrows, smooth and straight,

**You quickly scatter all your foes;
Your foes lose heart and yield to you,
The peoples come and bow to you.**

- 7 Your throne is firm for evermore,
Your sceptre is a rod of right,
You govern all with equity,**
- 8 Your love of justice is supreme,
You hate all forms of wickedness;
God therefore has anointed you
With oil of gladness and of joy,
And placed you over other kings.**
- 9 Your robes are sweet with fragrance rare,
Of aloes, myrrh, and cassia plants;
The halls of ivory palaces
Resound with music from the harp
To bring you joy and happiness;**
- 10 The royal maidens now come forth,
To greet you and to welcome you;
The queen stands proudly at your right,
In robes of cloth of Ophir gold.**

III. The Bride, the Church, and the People of God

- 11 O daughter, come and hear my words:
“As bride, you now must leave your home
And from your native land depart:**
- 12 The king awaits and longs for you,
Your beauty has attracted him:
He is the Lord’s anointed one,
He is your Lord and Master now;**

- Come, pay the homage due to him,
The homage due to him as king;
13 The Tyrian envoys come with gifts,
The rich and noble come to seek,
To seek the favor of the king.”
- 14 The bride appears in splendor bright,
In robes of golden cloth arrayed,
15 In robes of many colors clad;
Young maidens cluster round the bride,
Her closest friends are at her side;
16 Midst joy and gladness they are led
Into the palace of the king.

IV. Good Wishes to the King

- 17 With sons, O King, you will be blessed,
That they may take the place of those
Who, as our fathers, served the Lord;
And princes you shall make of them,
And send them over all the earth;
18 And I shall make your name as king
Remembered in the minds of all;
The nations then will give you praise
From age to age unceasingly.

Psalm 46 (45)

**GOD IS OUR REFUGE
AND STRONGHOLD**

I. No Need to Fear

- 2 Our refuge and our strength is God,
Who never fails us in distress;
- 3 We therefore have no cause to fear,
Though earthquakes shake the earth to bits,
Though mountains fall into the sea;
- 4 So let the waters rage and foam,
And let the mountains quake and roar,
The Lord of hosts will shelter us,
The God of Jacob is our strength.

II. God is King

- 5 But in the city of our God
The running streams bring joy and peace
- 6 To all who dwell with God on high:
For in his city God is king,
Where war and turmoil cannot dwell;
And if it were attacked by foes
Then God would at the break of day
Come to its rescue and defense,
- 7 If nations in their rage rose up,
If kingdoms turned against us, Lord,
Your mighty voice, once heard by them,
Could cause the earth to melt away.
- 8 The Lord of hosts will shelter us,
The God of Jacob is our strength.

III. God Makes Wars to Cease

- 9 Behold the works that God has wrought,
The wondrous works that he has done:
- 10 He causes wars to cease on earth,
He breaks the warriors' bows in two,
He breaks and splinters all their spears,
He throws their shields into the fire.
- 11 "Be still!" he says, "desist from wars!
And know that I am God, your Lord,
Above all nations of the earth;
My rule is over all the world."
- 12 The Lord of hosts will shelter us,
The God of Jacob is our strength.

Psalm 47 (46)**THE LORD IS KING OF
ALL THE EARTH****I. God Conquers the Pagan Nations**

- 2 O all you peoples, clap your hands
And shout to God with cries of joy,
- 3 Because the Lord, the most high God,
Most awesome in his majesty,
Is truly king of all the earth,
Supreme among the kings on earth.
- 4 He places peoples under us,
He places nations under us,

- 5 He leads us to the promised land,
He conquers Canaan for our use
To be our own inheritance,
For Jacob's glory whom he loves.

II. God Enters His Kingdom

- 6 Midst shouts of joy, God mounts his throne,
He mounts his throne midst trumpet blasts,
7 Sing praise to God, sing praise to him,
Sing praise to God, our Lord and king.

III. God is King over All the Nations

- 8 Our God is king of all the earth,
Sing praise to him, sing hymns of praise;
9 He sits upon his holy throne
And rules the nations from on high.
- 10 The princes of the peoples come,
Together they assemble now
And with our people bow to God,
The one true God of Abraham;
For now they all belong to God,
The God who is supreme on earth.

Psalm 48 (47)**THANKSGIVING FOR
DIVINE FAVORS*****I. God Protects Jerusalem***

- 2 The Lord our God is great indeed,
Beyond all human words of praise;
We owe him all our thanks and praise
Within the city where he dwells.
- 3 His holy hill, a beauteous sight,
Mount Zion on the northern slope,
The temple where he loves to dwell
Has been the joy of all the earth;
- 4 It is the city of our king,
Where he with majesty abides
Within its walls and ramparts high
And keeps it ever strong and safe.

II. God saves Jerusalem from Its Foes

- 5 Recall how all the kings once met,
Together they advanced on us,
Against Mount Zion they had marched,
Intent upon destroying us.
- 6 But when they saw Mount Zion's heights
They were at once amazed and stunned,
They quickly turned and took to flight,
- 7 With fear they trembled, filled with awe;
They suffered pain and anguish great
As of a woman giving birth;
- 8 They were like ships of Tarshish wrecked
By eastern winds upon the shore.

III. Wonders Wrought in Jerusalem

- 9 We had been told of wondrous deeds
That God had wrought in days of old,
And now we see these deeds again:
We see these wonders wrought again
By God the Lord of heaven's hosts
Within the city of our God,
Who keeps it always strong and firm.
- 10 O God, we now recall with thanks
Your kindness and your wondrous works
Which in your temple you have wrought;
- 11 Your name is known both far and wide,
Your praise resounds throughtout the world;
And with your right hand you extend
Your justice over every land;
- 12 Mount Zion is thus filled with joy;
May Judah's cities all be glad
That you with justice rule the world.

IV. Festive Procession in Jerusalem

- 13 So then go round Mount Zion's heights
And count its towers, scan its walls,
And see how strongly it is built,
- 14 That those who follow you may learn,
May hear from you how great God is:
- 15 Our God and Lord for evermore,
Our God who safely leads us on.

Psalm 49 (48)**PROSPERITY OF THE WICKED*****I. Invitation for All to Listen***

- 2 Give ear, you peoples, to my words:
All you who dwell upon the earth,
- 3 Of lowly birth or noble blood,
No matter whether rich or poor.

- 4 My mouth shall words of wisdom speak,
My heart shall pour out words of truth,
Shall seek to understand the truth;
- 5 My ear shall listen for the Lord
To teach and guide me as I write;
And, to the music of the harp,
I shall unfold the mystery
Of evil and prosperity.

II. Warning that All Must Die

- 6 Why should I fear, in evil days,
The malice of my enemies,
When they surround and threaten me?
- 7 They place their trust in worldly wealth,
They boast of all their affluence:
- 8 Yet all their riches are in vain,
Since they can not redeem themselves,
Nor pay a ransom to the Lord,
A ransom fit to make them free.

- 9 Too costly would such ransom be,
A ransom for a human life,

- 10 Nor could they ever pay enough
That they might always live on earth,
And never die nor see the grave.
- 11 For they can see that all must die;
Both wise and foolish pass away
And leave to others all their wealth.
- 12 The grave is now their dwelling place,
The dark and silent tomb their home,
For ages they will dwell therein,
Though while they lived their fame was great,
Whole lands were often named for them;
- 13 But none of us can keep our wealth;
In death we must abandon it;
And what is more, we all must share
With beasts the common lot of death.

III. The Wicked and the Upright

- 14 Such is the way of wicked men
Who in their folly trust in wealth;
Such is the end and fate of those
Who foolishly content themselves
With all their wealth in which they trust,
And all the flattery of their friends.
- 15 Like sheep they plunge into the pits,
Into the pits of Sheol's depths,
Where death, their shepherd, holds them now;
Their bodies quickly are consumed
And Sheol is their dwelling place;
The just shall triumph over them.

- 16 But God will free me from the grave,
Will free my soul from Sheol's pits,
For he will take me to himself.

IV. Riches are of No Avail after Death

- 17 Be not disturbed nor saddened now
Because of those whose riches grow,
Whose wealth increases in their hands;
- 18 For when they die and leave this life
Their wealth they cannot take with them;
The riches they possessed on earth
They cannot take along with them.
- 19 While on this earth, they vainly thought:
“When from this life we once depart,
Then all will praise and honor us
Because we did so well in life.”
- 20 But they will join the company
Of those who had preceded them,
And never shall they see the light.
- 21 Despite the splendor of their life,
Their wealth, prestige, and affluence,
They failed to reach the goal of life,
They had no wisdom in their heart;
They did not seem to understand
That some day they must meet with death,
The common lot they share with beasts.

Psalm 50 (49)**EXHORTATION TO SINCERE
WORSHIP*****I. God Summons All to be Judged***

- 1 The Lord, our God, sent forth his word,
He spoke and summoned all the earth,
From east to west he summoned all;
- 2 In Zion's dazzling beauty clothed,
Resplendent in his majesty,
He comes that all might see and hear:
In front of him, a burning fire,
Surrounding him, a raging storm.
- 4 He calls the heavens from above,
The earth he summons for the trial,
He is about to act as judge,
To judge his faithful people now:
- 5 "So gather all my faithful ones,
And bring all those before me now
Who made a covenant with me
And sealed their word with sacrifice."
- 6 The heavens loud proclaim the Lord,
Declare the justice of the Lord,
For he is judge of all the earth:

II. God Speaks to His Faithful People

- 7 "O Israel, my people, hear,
For I am now about to speak,

To testify against your ways,
For I am God, your God am I.

- 8 “The fault I chiefly find in you,
For which I have thus summoned you,
Lies not in offerings you have made,
For these are always plentiful
And never wanting in my sight;
- 9 Your bullocks I do not desire,
I will not take them from your herds;
And of your goats I have no need,
Nor will I take them from your flocks;
- 10 “For all the beasts on earth are mine,
The beasts that hide in forests dense,
The beasts that roam my mountain sides,
That by the thousands roam the earth:
- 11 The birds that fly beneath the skies,
And all that stir in fields and plains;
All birds and beasts belong to me.
- 12 If I had need of them for food,
I would not come to you and beg,
I would not need to hunger long,
For all the earth and world are mine.
- 13 “Am I to eat the flesh of bulls?
Am I to drink the blood of goats?
- 14 What you should do is offer praise,
Give praise and thanks to God, the Lord,
Make praise your daily sacrifice,
And keep the vows you made to God.
- 15 Then call on me in time of need,
And I will free and rescue you,

And you shall give me thanks and praise,
My name shall be your glory then.”

III. God Speaks to the Wicked

- 16 Now to the sinner God declares:
“My statutes loudly you proclaim,
My covenant is in your mouth,
17 But you have hated discipline
And cast my words away from you.
18 You see a thief and run with him,
And when you see adulterers
You quickly share your life with them.
- 19 “And to your mouth you give free rein,
There is no bridling of your speech,
Your tongue weaves lies and vain deceits,
20 You sit there slandering your own kin,
Against your mother’s son you rail,
You spread false rumors and deceits,
Your very brother you disgrace.
- 21 “Should I be deaf to all these things?
Should I be blind and silent too?
Or do you think I am like you?
I shall no longer let this go;
I therefore placed before your eyes
What you have done against my name,
And ask that you reform your life.

IV. God’s Final Warning to All Sinners

- 22 “Consider well what I have said,
All you who have forgotten God,

- Lest I should snatch and cast you off,
And there be none to rescue you.
- 23 For only those, whose sacrifice
Is made a sacrifice of praise,
Can give true glory to my name;
To those who walk my ways aright,
To them I will salvation show,
The Lord their God will rescue them.”

Psalm 51 (50)

TRUE REPENTANCE

I. Plea for Pardon

- 3 Show me mercy, Lord, my God,
In your kindness pardon me;
- 4 Wipe out all my sinfulness,
Cleanse me, wash out all my guilt.

II. Admission of Guilt

- 5 Lord, I now confess my sin:
It is always on my mind
And is never out of sight;
- 6 You alone I have betrayed,
I have sinned against you, Lord,
Doing evil in your sight;
This I now confess to you,
I confess my guilt to you;
Then you will be justified

In the sight of all who see
When you judge and punish me.

- 7 Yet it was with taint of sin
That I was conceived, O Lord;
In my mother's womb conceived,
I was born with sinfulness.
- 8 Lo, your great delight, O Lord,
Is in hearts sincere and true:
Teach me therefore words of truth,
Teach me wisdom, fill my heart
With your never failing truth.

III. Plea for Cleansing Grace

- 9 Sprinkle me with hyssop, Lord,
Cleanse me of my sin and guilt
That I may be purified;
Wash and cleanse me of my sin,
Make me whiter than the snow.
- 10 Let me hear the words of joy,
Bringing gladness to my soul,
Words by which you pardon me,
That the bones which you have crushed
May rejoice in peace again.
- 11 Look not on my sins, O Lord,
Blot out all my sins and guilt,
Turn your face away from them.

IV. Prayer for a Renewal of Spirit

- 12 Make my heart renewed and pure,
Make my spirit strong and firm,
Make me steadfast in your ways;

- 13 Cast me not away from you,
Keep me always in your sight;
May your holy spirit, Lord,
Always in my soul abide;
- 14 Give me back the joy and grace,
Joy which your salvation brings,
Lift me up and strengthen me
With a willing spirit, Lord.

V. Resolution to Live an Exemplary Life

- 15 I shall now begin to teach,
Teach transgressors all your ways,
So that sinners may return,
Turn to you and see your light.
- 16 God and Lord, my saving God,
Free me from my guilt of blood;
Then my tongue shall sing your praise
And proclaim your justice, Lord.
- 17 Open up my lips, O Lord,
Let my mouth declare your praise;
- 18 If my heart is not sincere,
Sacrifices, holocausts,
Will not be acceptable,
Will not give delight to you,
Even if I offered them.
- 19 But a contrite, humble heart,
You will not despise, O Lord;
That is what I offer you,
My own contrite heart, O Lord,
As my sacrifice to you.

VI. Plea for Rebuilding of Jerusalem

- 20 Show your loving goodness, Lord,
Favor Zion with your grace,
Build up Zion's walls again
And restore Jerusalem:
- 21 Then, we hope, our sacrifice
Will be pleasing to you, Lord;
That you will no more reject
Sacrifices, holocausts,
Bullocks on your altar, Lord,
When we come with contrite hearts.

Psalm 52 (51)**PRAYER AGAINST SLANDERERS*****I. Slander and Deceit***

- 3 Why glory in your sinfulness,
You mighty one of wickedness?
- 4 You plot your wicked schemes all day,
You seek the ruin of the just,
Your evil tongue is razor sharp,
Your life a web of rash deceit.
- 5 You love all evil, hate all good,
You love deceit and hate the truth,
- 6 You love insulting words that hurt,
Your tongue is full of vile deceit.

II. Final Punishment of the Wicked

- 7 But God himself will see to it
That you are broken and destroyed
And cast away for evermore;
For he will snatch you from your tent
And root you up from all the land,
From all the living cut you off.

III. Final Reward for the Just

- 8 The just shall see, and look with fear,
And they shall nod their heads and say:
9 “Behold how they have failed to see,
And did not look to God for strength,
But trusted in their affluence,
In all their riches and their wealth,
And grew in power through their crimes.”
- 10 But like a growing olive tree
Whose roots are fastened in the soil,
So in the temple of the Lord
I put my trust and hope in God;
11 I will forever praise you, Lord,
For all that you have done for me,
And I will loud proclaim your name,
Proclaim the goodness of your name,
In sight of all your faithful ones.

Psalm 53 (52)

**UNBELIEVERS AND WIDESPREAD
CORRUPTION**

I. Widespread Corruption

- 2 The foolish in their hearts have said:
“There is no God! There is no Lord!”
How sad that they have gone astray,
Corrupted by their evil deeds;
Not one of them does any good;
Their actions are abominable,
Their crimes abhorrent to the just;
It seems there is not even one,
Not one among them who is good.
- 3 As God looks down upon the earth,
He looks to see if even one
Has sense enough to search for God;
He looks upon the earth below
For even one who seeks the Lord!
- 4 It seems that all have gone astray,
That all have turned to evil deeds;
It seems there is not even one
Who trusts in God and does good deeds.

II. Divine Punishment for Evildoers

- 5 Will evildoers never learn?
Do they not know there is a God?
As if they were but eating bread,
They keep on slowly tearing down,

**Then greedily they swallow up
My people who have faith in God;**

- 6 These evildoers have no faith,
They do not worship God, the Lord;
They only fear their pagan gods,
Although they have no cause for fear,
Not knowing God is with the just;**

**So God has scattered far and wide
The bones of those who had encamped,
Surrounding us on every side;
But they were routed and disgraced;
They had not called on God for help,
They acted as if they were God;
Thus God has cast them off from him.**

III. God Will Bring Salvation to the Just

- 7 O that from Zion soon will come
Salvation unto Israel!
When God will once again release
His people from captivity;
Then all of Jacob shall rejoice
And all of Israel shall be glad.**

Psalm 54 (53)

**PRAYER IN TIME OF
GREAT DANGER**

I. A Cry for Help

- 3 O save me by your holy name,
And by your might defend my cause;
4 Give ear, O Lord, and hear my prayer,
Give ear and hearken to my words:
5 For haughty foes have threatened me,
Have risen up against me, Lord;
The violent have sought my life,
They put aside all thought of God.

II. Confidence in God's Help

- 6 Behold, my helper is the Lord,
And he sustains, supports my life;
7 You turn aside the evil, Lord,
Intended by my foes for me,
You turn it back upon themselves,
In justice they are thus destroyed.
8 And I will offer praise to you,
A sacrifice of praise to you;
And I will celebrate your name,
To thank you for your goodness, Lord,
9 Because you saved and rescued me
From all my troubles and distress;
And now I see my enemies
Disgraced and put to shame by you.

Psalm 55 (54)**CRUEL ENEMIES AND A
DISLOYAL FRIEND*****I. Fear and Anguish Because of Foes***

- 2 Give ear, O God, and hear my prayer,
And do not turn away from me,
- 3 Give ear and listen to my plea;
I am distressed and troubled much,
And filled with anguish and with grief,
I know not where to turn, O Lord.
- 4 The jeering voices of my foes,
Their shouts and insults tear me down,
With angry words they jeer at me,
And in their fury threaten me:
- 5 My heart is troubled, filled with grief,
The fear of death has seized me, Lord,
- 6 Great fear and trembling hold me fast
And horror overpowers me.
- 7 In my great grief, I often said:
“O would that I had wings to fly
And like a dove could fly away,
Could fly away and be at rest!
- 8 I would then quickly take to flight
Far off into the wilderness,
Where I could peacefully abide
And find some rest and shelter there,
- 9 A shelter from the raging storm,
A place of refuge from my foes.”

1. A Disloyal Friend

- 10 O break them up and scatter them,
Confuse them in their speech, O Lord,
For I see only violence,
With strife and discord everywhere,
The city is besieged by them:
- 11 Both day and night they walk around,
They make the rounds of all the walls,
They leave a trail of wickedness,
Of evil deeds along the streets
And everywhere they go, O Lord;
- 12 Within the city's very midst,
They plot and plan their wicked schemes,
The streets are never free of them,
Nor ever free of violence.

- 13 Now if some enemy of mine
Had slandered and insulted me,
Then truly I could bear with it;
Or if some foe who hated me
Would in his hatred slander me
Or war against me openly,
I might have sought some quick escape
And hidden far away from him.
- 14 But it was you, my closest friend,
With whom I was on such good terms,
- 15 Whose friendship I enjoyed so much,
And at whose side I often walked
Amidst the glad and festive throng,
As we our solemn entry made
Into the temple of the Lord;

Yet it was you, my faithful friend,
Who have become my greatest foe.

III. Complete Confidence in God's Help

- 16 But death will catch them unawares,
And take them down to Sheol's pits;
Their homes are dens of wickedness,
They all live in the midst of sin.
- 17 As for myself, I cry to God,
And he will come to rescue me;
- 18 From morn till noon, till late at night,
I groan with sighs and loud laments;
- 19 I know that God will hear my voice;
I know that he will rescue me
And free me from my many foes
Who daily seek to tear me down;
I know that he will give me peace.
- 20 For God who reigns eternally
Will hear my voice and cast them down;
Since they refuse to turn to God,
They show no fear for God or man:
- 21 They all reach out with grasping hands
Against their close and faithful friends,
And thereby break their faith with them;
- 22 Their faces soft as butter gleam,
But war and hate are in their hearts;
As smooth as oil are all their words,
But they are sharp as two-edged swords.
- 23 So cast your cares upon the Lord
And he will give you strong support,

For he will not neglect the just,
But he will always guard their ways
Lest they should sin and go astray.

- 24 But sinners you will cast away
Into the darkened pit of death;
For bloody and deceitful men
Will never live out half their days:
In you I place my hope, O Lord.

Psalm 56 (55)

UNSHAKEN CONFIDENCE IN GOD

1. Trust in God Though Beaten Down

- 2 Have mercy on me, Lord, my God,
For I am being trampled down
By those who fight incessantly;
3 My foes oppress me all day long,
They push me down and tread on me;
My many foes are crushing me.
- 4 When fear and dread take hold of me,
O most high God, I trust in you,
I place my hope and trust in you;
5 I glory in the promises
That you, O Lord, have made to me;
In you I trust; I will not fear
What mortal foes may do to me.

II. Prayer for God's Help

- 6 They never stop molesting me,
And all their thoughts are evil schemes
By which they hope to ruin me.
- 7 They come together, lie in wait,
They lie in wait and watch my steps,
They watch wherever I may go,
They watch and wait to take my life.
- 8 But you will duly punish them
For all their evil deeds, O Lord;
And in your wrath will cast them down
Because they have rejected you;
- 9 O Lord, you know the days I spent
In dreary exile, where my tears
You stored away and counted them,
You kept a record of my deeds
And duly wrote them in your book.
- 10 But all my foes will turn and flee,
Will turn their backs and run from me
As often as I call on you;
By this I know you favor me,
That you, O God, are on my side,
That you have not abandoned me.
- 11 I glory in the promises
That you, O Lord, have made to me;
- 12 In you I trust, I will not fear
What mortal foes may do to me.

1. Thanks to God for His Help

- 3 I still am bound to you, O God,
By vows which I once made to you;
I therefore offer sacrifice,
A sacrifice of praise to you,
A sacrifice of praise and thanks;
- 4 For you have rescued me from death,
You guarded me and saved my life,
You kept my feet from stumbling, Lord,
That I might walk within your sight,
And thank you for the light of life
Which you have granted me anew.

Psalm 57 (56)**PRAYER FOR MERCY
AND DELIVERANCE*****Pressed by Foes on Every Side***

- 2 Have mercy on me, Lord, my God;
You are my only refuge, Lord;
And in the shadow of your wings
I place myself into your care,
Until my foes have ceased their threats,
Until my life is safe from harm.
- 3 I cry to God, the Lord most high,
To God who is so kind to me;
- 4 From heaven may he send his help

And save me from my enemies;
And may he bring disgrace on those
Who harass me incessantly;
May God in all his faithfulness
And in his kindness favor me.

- 5 I feel like those who find themselves
Exposed to lions in their den,
To lions watching for their prey;
Their teeth like spears and arrows sharp,
Their tongues like long and sharpened swords.
- 6 Show forth your power from above,
O God, show forth your majesty,
Your glory far above the earth;
And manifest yourself as God;
May you be praised beyond the skies.

II. Prayer for Deliverance

- 7 They set a net to snare my feet,
My soul was filled with fear and dread,
They dug a pit to trap me, Lord,
They will themselves fall into it.
- 8 But you have strengthened me, O Lord,
My heart is firm, and I will sing
And chant your praises with the harp.
- 9 Awake, my soul, come back to life,
Awake, my faithful harp and lyre,
The very dawn I will arouse
And at the break of day, O Lord,
I shall then sing my thanks to you,
Your praises I shall sing at dawn.

- 10 And I will praise you far and wide
In sight of all the peoples, Lord,
And I will sing your praises loud
That all the nations on the earth
May know that you are Lord and God:
- 11 For your great kindness reaches far,
It reaches out beyond the skies,
It reaches up to heaven, Lord;
Your constant, steadfast, faithfulness
Goes far beyond the clouds, O Lord.
- 12 Show forth your power from above,
O God, show forth your majesty,
Your glory far above the earth,
And manifest yourself as God;
May you be praised beyond the skies.

Psalm 58 (57)

INJUSTICE IS CONDEMNED

1. Warning to Those Who Abuse Authority

- 2 You magistrates who rule the land,
You serve as witnesses of God:
But are your judgments right and just?
And do you judge with equity?
Does justice guide and temper you?
- 3 In truth your judgments are corrupt,
For in your hearts you plan deceits,

And then commit injustices;
Your crimes extend throughout the land.

- 4 These unjust rulers, so it seems,
Already from their mother's womb,
Had strayed and fallen from the way,
And since their birth had spoken lies:
5 Their mouth is full of poisoned words,
Like poison from the fangs of snakes;
Nor do they listen to the truth:
They are like adders deaf to sound;
6 They stop their ears lest they should hear
The charmer's soothing voice and song,
The wizard's skilful, cunning spell;
These evil rulers do not heed
The word of God and God's commands.

II. God's Justice Will Prevail

- 7 But you, O God, will break their teeth,
And crush their jaws within their mouth;
And you will crush the grinding teeth
Of all these wicked men, O Lord,
Who are like lions in their den,
Like lions watching for their prey.
- 8 But they will quickly disappear
As running waters flow away;
And when they draw their bows to shoot,
Their arrows will all pointless be;
9 And they themselves will waste away,
Like wax that melts and flows away,
Like snails that leave a fading trail,

Like snails that dry up in their shells;
 As grass, when trodden under foot,
 Is quickly crushed and dies away;
 Or like a still untimely birth
 That never sees the light of day;

- May they be stopped without delay,
 May they be halted in their tracks
 And rendered helpless where they stand;
 10 May they be forced to turn their backs,
 As quickly as when cooking pots
 Have hardly felt the bramble's flames,
 And then a sudden whirlwind comes
 And carries off the burning twigs
 Before their flames could even touch
 The cooking pots that hang there cold;
 So may these men of evil minds
 Be quickly stopped and driven off
 Before they dare attack the just.
- 11 The faithful shall then all rejoice
 To see God's justice measured out
 Against their evil enemies;
 And like the warriors of the past,
 The just shall walk in triumph now
 Through streets where blood of foes still runs.
- 12 Then we shall loudly spread the news:
 "There truly is reward for those
 Who walk the way of God's commands;
 There truly is a God who knows
 And judges all upon the earth."

Psalm 59 (58)**HELP AGAINST
CRUEL ENEMIES*****1. The Treachery of Cruel Enemies***

- 2 Deliver me, O Lord, my God,
And rescue me from all my foes,
Who threaten me with all their might.
- 3 O save me from the hands of those
Who thirst for blood and seek my life;
- 4 Behold, they lie in wait for me,
They seek to take my life, O Lord;
With all their might they plot and scheme,
They gather round and threaten me,
They threaten me incessantly.
- 5 They have no cause to seek my life,
No sin or crime of mine, O Lord,
No guilt of mine should give them cause
To gather round and take up arms,
For I am free of guilt and sin.
- 6 Rise up and come to help me, Lord,
And see the need I have for you,
O mighty God and Lord of hosts,
The Lord and God of Israel.
Arise, chastise the nations, Lord,
And turn them from their evil ways,
And do not spare the traitors, Lord;

- 7 Each evening they return again,
They howl and snarl like prowling dogs,
They prowl about the streets and walls,
8 They boast and swagger as they roam,
And pour out insults from their mouths:
“There is no God who hears or sees!
So who will know our evil deeds?”
9 But you, O God, will laugh at them,
For you can hear and see them well;
You have good reason to deride
And chasten all the nations, Lord.
- 10 To you, my strength, I turn for help,
You are my only stronghold now,
11 O merciful and gracious Lord!

II. Urgent Plea to God for Help

- May God come to my aid and help,
And may I live to see the day
When all my foes are overcome.
- 12 Before your people are subdued
And led astray by pagan foes
Through all their lies and vain deceits,
Cast down our wicked enemies
And shame them by your might and power;
Subdue them, Lord, my shield and strength;
- 13 The speech they utter with their lips,
The words they pour out from their mouths,
Are all a mass of haughty lies;
May they be caught in their own pride,
And by their curses be disgraced,
And shamed by their deceits and lies.

- 14 When in your wrath you strike them down
And conquer them, subduing them,
Then all will know that you are God,
That you are Jacob's God and Lord,
And rule the earth from pole to pole.
- 15 Behold, each evening they return,
They howl and snarl like prowling dogs,
They prowl about the streets and walls,
- 16 Like scavengers that look for food,
And if they are not filled, they howl.
- 17 But I will sing with harp and lyre,
Will sing of your great strength and power,
At early dawn I will rejoice
Because of your great kindness, Lord;
You are my only stronghold, Lord,
My only refuge in distress.
- 18 O God, my strength, I sing your praise,
You are my only stronghold now,
O merciful and gracious Lord!

Psalm 60 (59)

HOPE AFTER DEFEAT

1. A Time of Bitter Defeat

- 3 It seems you have rejected us
And have been angry with us, Lord:
You broke up all our battle lines;

- We therefore beg your mercy now:
Restore us to your grace again.
- 4 It seems you shook the very earth,
And split and cracked it open wide;
We beg you, heal the cracks and breaks,
Restore us to our former strength,
For we are weak and broken down
And very close to ruin, Lord.
- 5 Great hardships you imposed on us,
You made us drink a heady wine,
A wine of suffering and of pain,
Which made us tremble with great fear.
- 6 But then you raised a banner high
For those who fear and worship you,
That they might flee beyond the range
Of arrows from the enemy.
- 7 O help us with your right hand, Lord,
And hear the plea we make to you,
That those you love and cherish, Lord,
May be delivered from their foes.

II. God's Promises are Recalled

- 8 The Lord, our God, has answered us,
Has spoken from his holy place:
- “I now lay claim to all these lands,
And hereby make them all my own:
- 9 The land of Shechem will be mine,
Where Abraham first pitched his tent;
The land of Succoth will be mine,
Where Jacob settled down to live;

Then Gilead and Manasseh both
Will guard my lands from east to west;
My helmet will be Ephraim,
Against invaders from the north;
And Judah will my scepter hold
To rule and govern all the land.

- 10 “But Moab will be made to serve
As washbowl for the master’s feet
Upon the Dead Sea’s eastern shore;
And Edom will be made to clean
The sandals of the master’s feet
Upon the Dead Sea’s southern shore,
A conquered nation now subdued
To serve as footstool for the king;
I shall then conquer and subdue
The land of all Philistia
And make it subject to my rule.”

III. Prayer of Confidence in God’s Help

- 11 But who will lead and guide us, Lord,
And bring us to the city’s walls,
And help us through its guarded gates?
And who will even lead us on
To lowly Edom by the sea?
- 12 O God, though you have cast us off,
Will you not now go forth with us
And lead us on to victory?
- 13 O help us, Lord, against our foes,
For human help is all in vain.
- 14 With God we shall be strong and brave,

For he will conquer all our foes
And strike down all our enemies.

Psalm 61 (60)

THE KING'S PRAYER IN EXILE

I. Longing to Return to the Holy City

- 2 Listen, Lord, and hear my cry,
Hearken to my prayer, Lord!
- 3 As my heart grows faint and weak,
As my strength and courage fail,
From my lonely exile here,
From afar I cry to you,
Trusting you will lift me up,
Lift me high upon a rock
And bestow on me your peace.
- 4 Lord, my refuge and my strength,
Be my tower of defense,
Shield me from my enemies.
- 5 O that I might dwell with you,
Dwell forever in your tent,
Close to you for evermore,
Finding refuge, joy, and peace,
In the shelter of your wings.

II. Prayer for a Long Life

- 6 You have heard the vows I made,
Vows to praise you daily, Lord;

You have heard my pleadings, Lord,
You have made me son and heir,
Heir with those who fear your name,
Those who fear and worship you.

- 7 Give the king more years, O Lord,
Let him live for years to come;
8 May he in your presence rule,
May he reign for evermore;
Show your kindness to him, Lord,
Guard him with your faithfulness.
- 9 I will sing and praise your name,
Praise your name for evermore;
Daily I will keep my vows,
Daily I will praise you, Lord.

Psalm 62 (61)
GOD OUR ONLY HOPE
AND REFUGE

1. Our Only Hope is God

- 2 In God alone I am at rest,
Through him alone can I be saved,
In him alone I put my trust,
Salvation comes from God alone;
3 He is my fortress and my rock,
My sole defense against my foes,
I shall not therefore be disturbed.

- 4 How long will you, who seek my life,
Continue your attacks on me?
You strike and shove and push me down
As if I were a sagging wall
Of some old house about to fall,
As if I were a crumbling wall
That is about to tumble down.
- 5 Indeed, they plot against me, Lord,
Their joy is in deceits and lies,
By which they seek to drive me out
And rob me of my refuge, Lord,
To cast me down from off the rock
Where you have kindly sheltered me;
They bless me with their mouth and voice,
But in their hearts they curse me, Lord;
They take delight in their deceits.

II. Salvation Comes from God Alone

- 6 In God alone I am at rest,
Through him alone can I be saved,
In him alone I put my trust,
Salvation comes from God alone:
- 7 He is my fortress and my rock,
My sole defense against my foes,
I shall not therefore be disturbed;
- 8 My sole salvation is the Lord,
My glory and my rock and strength,
My only refuge is the Lord.
- 9 My people, put your trust in God,
Pour out your hearts to him in praise,
Our only refuge is the Lord.

III. The Vanity of Earthly Power

- 10 A simple breath is all we are,
No matter whether rich or poor,
No matter whether high or low,
When all are in the balance weighed,
They will be lighter than a breath.
- 11 Put not your trust in violence,
Nor in oppression of the poor;
And boast not of your plunderings;
Let not your heart be moved and swayed
By riches and abundant wealth.
- 12 Now God has said one thing to me;
In fact, two things I heard him say:
“To God belongs great might and power;
And you, O Lord, are merciful;
You render what is due to each
According to his words and deeds.”

Psalm 63 (62)**ARDENT DESIRE FOR GOD****I. Longing for God**

- 2 O God, you are my Lord and God,
I long for you most earnestly:
I look for you at break of day;
My soul thirsts day and night for you,
Like parched and thirsty desert land.

- 3 And that is why I gaze on you
When in your temple, praising you,
I look toward you and contemplate
How great your glory and your might.
- 4 With lips and tongue I sing your praise:
Your mercy and your goodness, Lord,
Your kindness and your love for me,
Mean more to me than life itself.

II. Clinging to God

- 5 And thus I praise you while I live,
My hands I lift up high in prayer
When calling on your name, O Lord;
- 6 My soul will then be satisfied:
As at a banquet I am filled
With all the best and finest food,
So now my lips with joy will sing,
My mouth shall praise your glory, Lord.
- 7 Upon my bed I pray to you,
And through the night I meditate
On all your kindness to me, Lord;
- 8 For you have been my help and strength,
You sheltered me and I rejoiced
Within the shadow of your wings;
- 9 My soul clings fast to you, O Lord,
As with your hand you hold me up.

III. Rejoicing in God

- 10 But they who seek to take my life
Will soon go down into the grave;

- 11 For they shall perish by the sword
And then become the welcome prey,
The prey of jackals, wolves, and dogs.
- 12 The king, however, shall rejoice
And find his joy and peace in God:
And all who put their faith in God,
By praising him and thanking him,
Shall find their glory in the Lord;
But those whose speech is full of lies
Will find their mouths blocked up and closed,
Will find they can no longer speak.

Psalm 64 (63)

SUFFERING AT THE HANDS OF EVIL MEN

I. Malicious Deceivers

- 2 Give ear, O Lord, to my lament,
And guard my life against my foes,
For I am filled with fear and dread;
- 3 Protect me from their evil plots
Which they devise to take my life;
And spare me from the tumult, Lord,
Stirred up by them throughout the land.
- 4 They whet their tongues like sharpened sword
They slander me with poisoned words
Like arrows shot from bended bow;

- 5 They wait in ambush for their prey
To catch the guileless unawares
And strike them down without remorse:
- 6 Intent upon their evil plans,
They plot and lay out secret snares;
They have no fear of God or man;
Together they agree and say:
“Not even God will see our deeds!”
- 7 They keep on plotting wickedness
And keep their evil thoughts concealed;
Down deep within their hearts and minds,
They keep their schemes in readiness
Against the day when they can strike
And catch their victims unawares.

II. God is not Deceived

- 8 But God will soon forestall their plans
And strike them unexpectedly
With deadly arrows of his own,
When they themselves are off their guard;
And thus they find themselves with wounds
Before they can attack the just.
- 9 For God allows them to be caught,
To be destroyed by their own tongues,
And fall into the traps and snares
Which they intended for the just;
And those who see them nod their heads,
They shake their heads in wonderment.
- 10 The just are filled with awe and fear
When they behold what God has wrought;

- They loud proclaim the works of God
And ponder long upon his deeds.
- 11 They find their joy and peace in God;
They put their trust and hope in him;
They find true refuge in the Lord;
And all who live an upright life
Proclaim the glory of the Lord.

Psalm 65 (64)

GRATITUDE TO GOD FOR HIS BLESSINGS

1. Thanks to God for His Mercy

- 2 To you we owe this hymn of praise,
With praise and thanks to you, O Lord,
To you who rule from Zion's heights;
- 3 To you, O God, our vows we pay,
For you give ear to every prayer.
- 4 Because of our great sinfulness
Our sins oppress and weigh us down;
And thus we all now come to you,
For you alone can pardon us
And through your mercy will forgive.
- 5 Those whom you choose are blessed indeed,
Those whom you take unto yourself
To dwell within your courts, O Lord;
May we be blessed with all good things,

With all good things that come from you;
May we be blessed with holiness
Within your holy temple, Lord.

II. Thanks to God for His Providence

- 6 With justice and with wondrous signs,
You hear and answer us, O Lord;
O God, our Savior and our shield,
You are the hope of all the earth,
The hope of all the distant seas;
- 7 You set the mountains in their place
And by your power made them firm;
- 8 You still the roaring seas and waves,
You curb the nations in their strife
And all the tumult raised by them.
- 9 And all the dwellers of the earth,
As also those in distant parts,
Are filled with awe at your great works;
They therefore fear and worship you;
And all the peoples of the earth,
From farthest east to farthest west,
Will sing with joy and praise you, Lord.

III. Thanks to God for a Bountiful Harvest

- 10 For you have come to visit us,
And watered all the land with rain.
Enriching all the fields and hills
With running streams and sparkling brooks,
- 11 That keep the furrows fresh and moist,
That soften up the dried up soil
And break up all the sun-baked clods;

- You moisten all the land with rain,
You bless the earth and all it yields.
- 12 With bounty you have crowned the year,
Your goodness everywhere abounds
And leaves rich harvests in its path;
- 13 The unplowed meadows blossom out,
The pastures in the wilderness
Are decked with colors wild and rich;
The hills are clothed with gladness, Lord;
- 14 The pastures all abound with flocks,
The green and fertile valleys bulge
With bounteous crops of corn and grain;
They seem to sing and shout for joy.

Psalm 66 (65)

THANKSGIVING TO GOD OUR RESCUER

1. Let All the World Praise the Lord

- 1 Shout joyfully to God, our Lord,
All you on earth, sing praise to him,
- 2 O sing the glory of his name
And render highest praise to him;
- 3 And say to him: "How great indeed,
How wondrous are your works, O Lord;
Your enemies unwillingly
Give praise to you and flatter you
Because of your great strength, O Lord;

- 4 Let all on earth bow down to you,
Let all adore and sing to you
And praise the glory of your name.”

II. Recall the Wondrous Works of God

- 5 O come and see the works of God,
The wondrous works he did for us;
6 He cleared a path across the sea,
The Red Sea waters parted wide,
So that our fathers crossed on foot
And safely reached Mount Sinai's heights:
For this, let us rejoice in God.
- 7 God reigns supreme for evermore,
And by his power rules the world,
His eyes intent on all the earth,
On all the nations here below;
Let nations therefore not rebel,
And let them not exalt themselves
Nor rise against the Lord, our God.
- 8 But rather bless and praise our God,
O all you nations of the world,
And sing the glory of his name.
- 9 God gave us all the life we have;
He saved us from the brink of death
And poured new life into our soul;
He gives us life from day to day,
He holds our life within his hands,
In him we live, and move, and are;
He has not let us slip or fall.
- 10 For you have tried and tested us,

You tested us as if by fire,
You purified and cleansed us, Lord,
As silver, tested in the flames,
Is cleansed from all impurities.

- 11 You led us into snares and traps,
You placed great burdens on our backs,
12 You let our foes ride over us
And crush our heads with horses' hooves;
Through fire and through floods we passed;
But then you came to rescue us
And offered us a place of rest.

III. Sacrifices of Thanksgiving

- 13 I therefore come into your house,
Into your temple I will go;
Burnt offerings I will bring to you,
And I will pay my vows to you,
14 As I had promised with my lips
And with my tongue and voice had vowed
When I was in distress, O Lord.
15 Burnt offerings I will bring to you:
Young fatling sheep and fattened rams,
Young goats and oxen I will bring
And offer them to you, O Lord.
- 16 Now all of you who fear the Lord,
I beg you, come and hear me tell
What great things God has done for me.
17 I cried to God by word of mouth,
I praised him with my tongue and voice;
18 If I had evil in my heart,
The Lord would not have heard my cry.

- 19 But God did hear and answer me,
He listened to my cry for help!
- 20 So blessed be God, who rescued me,
Who did not close his ear to me,
But in his mercy sheltered me.

Psalm 67 (66)

THANKSGIVING FOR A RICH HARVEST

I. Ancient Prayer of Blessing

- 2 May God in kindness bless us all,
And may his face shine down on us,
- 3 That all may know the ways of God,
The ways of God upon the earth,
How God's own people will be saved
If they but walk the way of God;
And that the nations may all know
That God saves those who worship him
And who are faithful to his will.
- 4 O may the peoples praise you, God!
May all the peoples praise you, Lord!

II. May All Acknowledge God as Lord

- 5 May all the nations shout with joy,
And may they all rejoice in you,

Because you judge them fairly, Lord,
You govern them with equity.

- 6 O may the peoples praise you, God!
May all the peoples praise you, Lord!

III. Thanksgiving for a Bountiful Harvest

- 7 The earth has yielded all its fruit
And God has blessed us generously;
8 May God not cease to bless us all,
And may his blessings multiply
For all who fear and worship God;
May all the peoples of the earth
Be faithful to the will of God,
Bow down and worship God, the Lord!

Psalm 68 (67)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

I. Their Enemies Scattered, the Just Rejoice

- 2 The Lord, our God, has risen up,
His enemies are scattered wide,
All those who hate him seek escape
And quickly fly away from him;
3 As smoke is driven by the wind,
So they are scattered far and wide;
As wax when once exposed to heat

- Melts quickly in the fiery flame,
So all the wicked fade away
And perish in the sight of God.
- 4 But all the just rejoice in him
And in the sight of God exult,
They take delight in God, their Lord.

II. God Protects His People

- 5 O sing to God and praise his name,
Make way for him and for his ark
Which over desert roads was borne,
That we might not forget the Lord,
The Lord who rides upon the clouds;
His name is Lord and we rejoice,
Rejoice with gladness in his sight.
- 6 Your widowed people sought your help,
Your orphaned people looked to you,
Their father and defender, Lord,
Who in your holy temple dwell;
The helpless you protect and shield.
- 7 For God prepared a dwelling place,
A dwelling place in Canaan,
For his abandoned Israelites;
He freed them from captivity,
From Egypt's land of misery,
Where they had served as menial slaves,
And led them on to Canaan
Through Sinai's rough and desert land;
He led them to the promised land
Where they could freely live and work,
Where they could settle on the land

And tend their flocks and grow their grain,
And worship without dread or fear;
But those rejecting God's commands
Were left to perish on the way,
To perish in the wilderness.

III. Journey from Sinai to Canaan

- 8 When with your people you went forth
And marched through Sinai's wilderness,
The ark was carried out in front,
The people followed close behind
That they might not forget you, Lord,
That they might always be aware
That you were present in their midst,
That you were daily leading them;
Your presence, Lord, was often felt,
And was revealed by wondrous signs:
- 9 The earth around Mount Sinai shook,
And heavy rains came down in floods,
The thunder crashed, the lightning flashed
Before the presence of the Lord;
Mount Sinai shook and trembled long
Before the God of Israel.
- 10 You sent another bounteous rain,
A rain of manna from the skies,
So that your people would not starve;
You quenched their thirst and calmed their
fears
With water flowing from a rock;
You nourished them with desert quails;
As often as they needed more,
You furnished them with food and drink.

- 11 And when they reached the promised land,
They found you had prepared the land
With fertile soil and bounteous rains,
With pastures green and lush with grass,
Where all their flocks could freely graze.

IV. Conquest of Canaan

- 12 The Lord had given out the word,
Had signalled to the happy throng
Of women heralds, that they proclaim
The joyful news of victory
Which God had promised they would gain:
- 13 “The heathen kings had tried to flee,
To flee from God’s great might and power;
Our armies soon surrounded them
And took them back to Israel
Where they as captives were retained.”

The women heralds then loud proclaimed:
“O God, our Lord, and king of hosts,
The king and ruler of the world,
The Lord and God of Israel,
May you live on for evermore;
You ordered that the spoils of war
Should be divided equally
Among the women of the tribes,
So that each household have its share.

- 14 “O all you tribes of Israel,
You people, God’s own chosen race,
You heritage of God the Lord,
When you had reached the promised land
You settled down in comfort there,

In places as allotted you,
To live and labor peacefully
And freely worship God, your Lord;
Of dangers you were unaware,
Of enemies you had no thought,
Like doves you lived in innocence;
You were like doves with shining wings
That glisten brightly in the sun,
Or like the feathers of the dove
That flash like gold beneath the sun;

- 15 “When enemies then threatened you
Your only refuge was the Lord
Since you yourselves were ill prepared
To cope with warring enemies;
And then the Lord of might and power
Dispersed the kings of Canaan;
Mount Zalmon’s slopes seemed white as snow
As if the snow had covered it,
For soldiers of the Canaanites
Lay dead and fallen everywhere.”

***V. God Chooses Zion in Jerusalem
as His Dwelling Place***

- 16 Your mountains, Bashan, reach up high,
Your many peaks reach to the skies,
Like mountain tops where God might dwell;
17 But why are you so filled with pride?
And why are you so envious
Of Zion’s Mount which is so small?
Perhaps it is because God chose
Mount Zion as his dwelling place,
Where God will dwell for evermore.

- 18 Now, God has many chariots,
Whole thousands of them under him,
And thousands more at his command
To serve as guardians and protect
All those who seek their joy in God;
Surrounded by this vast array
Of charioteers along the way,
God marches forth from Sinai's heights
To dwell within his holy place
On Zion's Mount for evermore.
- 19 O God, you chose Mount Zion's height,
You chose it as your dwelling place,
Ascending high upon its rock;
And in your train were conquered foes,
Whom you as captives now retained;
They brought you spoils and tribute too;
Rebelling foes gave up their arms,
Surrendered all they had to you,
Although they were unwilling, Lord,
To dwell in Zion's holy place.

VI. God's Presence Amidst His People

- 20 Our sure salvation is the Lord,
He is the only one who saves,
The only God who rescues us,
Who rescues us from sin and death;
- 21 Blessed be the Lord, our God, each day,
He bears our burdens, rescues us;
- 22 And he will crush the heads of those
Who walk in sin and wickedness.
- 23 The Lord then gave us hope and said:
"No matter where your foes may flee,

- I keep them always in my sight;
 From Bashan I will bring them back.
 Or even from the ocean depths;
 24 And you will dip your feet in blood,
 The blood of those who hate the Lord;
 The tongues of dogs and wolves will lick
 The blood of those who are your foes.”

VII. Festive Procession to the Temple

- 25 The people watch your going in,
 They watch the coming of the Lord,
 The solemn entry of the king
 Into his holy dwelling place:
 26 The singers walk ahead and lead,
 The minstrels follow with their harps.
 The others with their flutes and lyres;
 And in their midst the maidens sing,
 Rejoicing with their tambourines:
 27 “O all you sons of Israel,
 On this great festive day sing out
 And bless the God of Israel!”
- 28 Then Benjamin, the youngest one,
 Is at their head and leads them on;
 The tribal princes follow him
 With all their faithful men of rank:
 The tribe of Juda, Zabulon,
 And then the tribe of Nephtali,
 With all their princes following.

VIII. Prayer for Conversion of the Nations

- 29 Show forth your might and power, Lord,
Confirm what you have worked in us,
The power which you gave to us,
By which you helped and strengthened us
To overcome our enemies.
- 30 Let kings now bring their gifts to you
As tribute for your temple, Lord,
Your temple in Jerusalem.
- 31 Rebuke the beasts of Egypt's Nile,
The heartless kings of Egypt's sands;
Subject and tame the herd of bulls,
The heathen kings with all their pride,
With all their pride and haughtiness;
And help the peoples understand
That you are God, the only Lord.
May they bow down and worship you,
And may they come with silver bars
As tribute for your temple, Lord;
But scatter all those nations, Lord,
That take delight in waging wars,
Rejecting you and your commands,
With hatred for your people, Lord.
- 32 May Egypt send its men of rank,
As also Ethiopia,
To worship you with outstretched hands,
To worship in your temple, Lord.

IX. Nations are Called to Worship the True God

- 33 O all you kingdoms of the earth,
Sing praise to God, make melody.

- 34 To God who rides upon the clouds
As he has done for ages past;
O hearken now and hear his voice,
The clear and mighty voice of God,
Which loudly calls throughout the land:
- 35 “Acknowledge that the Lord is God!
Confess his power and his might!”
He rules and governs Israel,
His might and majesty surpass
The power of all other gods;
The skies reveal his glorious might.
- 36 How great the God of Israel,
How awesome is his holy place;
The strength we have has come from him,
He is a God that all should fear!
May God be blessed for evermore!

Psalm 69 (68)

PRAYER IN TIME OF PERSECUTION

1. Cry for Help against Persecutors

- 2 O save me, God, and rescue me!
The waters of affliction rise,
- 3 And I am sinking more and more,
Deep down into the miry swamp,
With not a place to set my foot:

- And now that I have reached the depths,
The waves come rushing over me;
4 Fatigued from calling out for help,
My throat is raw, my voice is hoarse,
And both my eyes are growing weak,
Are failing as I look for God.
- 5 Now those who hate me without cause
Are much more numerous than I know,
Than all the hairs upon my head;
Their strength is far too great for me,
The strength of those who wrongfully
Oppose me as my enemies:
Must I restore unstolen goods?
Must I perhaps make up for sin,
For sin and guilt which are not mine,
By suffering at the hands of foes?

III. Persecuted without Cause

- 6 O God, you know my foolishness,
My faults are not unknown to you:
7 So let not those who hope in you
Be put to shame because of me;
And let not those who seek your face
Be made to blush because of me,
O Lord and God of Israel.
- 8 Because I bore reproach for you
And I was forced to blush for shame,
9 I have become a stranger, Lord,
A stranger to my mother's sons,
An outcast to my brothers, Lord.

- 10 My zeal for your great temple, Lord,
Has eaten and devoured me,
And all the insults heaped on you
By those who have rejected you
Fall back on me, O Lord, my God.
- 11 With fasting I denied myself,
But they reproached me all the more;
- 12 I put on penitential garb,
I dressed myself in sackcloth, Lord;
They only mocked me all the more,
And made a laughingstock of me;
- 13 And those who gather at the gate
Repeat the rumors they have heard,
They tear me down and ruin me,
And having had their fill of wine,
They rail at me with drunken songs.

III. Urgent Plea for Help

- 14 I therefore turn to you, O Lord,
And pray that now the time has come
For you to show me mercy, Lord,
And in your goodness answer me
With all your saving, faithful help:
- 15 O lift me from the mire, Lord,
Lest I should sink into the depths;
O save me from the watery depths,
From those who hate me, rescue me;
- 16 Let not the waters drown me, Lord,
But save me from the deep abyss,
Lest I be swallowed up by it;
Protect me from the darkened pit,

Lest it should close its mouth on me,
And chew me up and swallow me.

- 17 O hear me, Lord, for you are kind,
In your great mercy turn to me,
18 And do not hide your face from me;
For I am but your servant, Lord,
And find myself in great distress;
Make haste, O Lord, and answer me,
O answer me without delay:
19 Come near to me and save my life,
Lord, save my soul and ransom me,
Because of all my enemies,
That they may see your kindness, Lord.
- 20 You know what shame I have endured,
The hate and insults heaped on me;
And those who have afflicted me
Are all within your sight, O Lord;
21 My heart is almost broken, Lord;
I have become so weak and faint
That I am almost sick to death;
I looked for some to sympathize,
But there were none to pity me,
And there were none to comfort me;
22 Instead, they tried to poison me,
Put bitter gall into my food;
To quench my thirst and ease my pain
They gave me wine and gall to drink.

IV. Punishment of Persecutors

- 23 But you will justly punish them,
Your justice will prevail, O Lord:

- Their banquets will become a snare,
 A trap for friends whom they invite,
 Whom they invite to eat with them:
 And they will find themselves betrayed
 By those same friends who dined with them
- 24 Their eyes will soon grow weak and dim,
 So that they can no longer see;
 Their backs all hunched with pain and age,
 They walk about, bowed down with years;
- 25 And you will pour your wrath on them;
 The heat of all your anger, Lord,
 Will overtake and conquer them.
- 26 Their dwellings will be laid to waste,
 And no one will be left alive
 To dwell within their tents, O Lord;
- 27 They followed him, surrounded him
 Whom you already once struck down;
 With grief and pain they harassed him
 Whom you yourself had wounded once;
- 28 And so they added guilt on guilt;
 For this they will not gain reward,
 They will not gain reward from you;
- 29 Their names will all be blotted out
 And taken from the book of life;
 Their names will never be inscribed
 Together with the just, O Lord.

V. Resolution to Praise God

- 30 But now I am afflicted, Lord,
 With sorrow, pain, and great distress;
 Protect me with your saving help,

- 31 And I will praise your name with song,
And glorify your name with thanks;
- 32 For this will please you more, O Lord,
Than bulls and oxen offered you,
Than bulls with horns and cloven hooves.
- 33 “Behold, you lowly ones, rejoice!
All you who seek the Lord, our God;
And may your hearts take on new life;
Rejoice, again I say: Rejoice!
- 34 God always listens to the poor,
Nor does he close his eyes to those
Who are in bonds as prisoners,
As prisoners for their faith in him:
- 35 Let all the heavens and the earth,
The seas and all that moves in them,
Praise God and thank him evermore.”
- 36 For God will save his holy Mount,
Mount Zion in Jerusalem;
And Judah he will build again,
All Judah’s cities he will build,
That they who dwell there will possess
And own the land on which they live;
- 37 The offspring of his servants then,
And those who love the name of God,
Will be the heirs and dwell therein,
Will dwell in Judah evermore.

Psalm 70 (69)**ARDENT PRAYER FOR HELP**

- 2 Be pleased, O Lord, to rescue me,
Make haste to help me, Lord, I pray,
And save me from my enemies.
- 3 May those who seek my life be shamed;
May those who seek to ruin me,
Who wish me only evil, Lord,
And even wish that I were dead,
And who rejoice at my distress,
When great misfortunes fall on me,
May they be made to blush for shame;
- 4 And may they be confounded, Lord,
Be forced to turn and go away,
Who take delight in taunting me,
Who jeer at me and laugh at me,
Who show contempt and scorn for me,
Who say to me: Aha! Aha!
- 5 But may all those who seek you, Lord,
Rejoice with gladness, sing with joy;
And those who look to you for help,
Who look to you for rescue, Lord,
And seek salvation in your name,
Say always: "God be glorified!"
- 6 But I am poor and wretched, Lord,
O come, and hasten to my aid,
You are my sole salvation, Lord,

You are my helper in distress,
My helper and deliverer,
O Lord, my God, do not delay!

Psalm 71 (70)

PRAYER IN OLD AGE

1. God Our Only Hope and Refuge

- 1 To you I flee for refuge, Lord,
And never let me be ashamed;
- 2 But in your justice free me, Lord,
Deliver me and rescue me;
Give ear to me and save me, Lord;
- 3 And be to me a rock of strength,
A rock of refuge from my foes,
A fortress walled and guarded well
To save me and to shelter me;
You are my rock and stronghold, Lord.
- 4 O save me, God, and rescue me,
From grasping hands and clutching fists
Of evildoers save me, Lord.
- 5 You are my only hope, O Lord,
In you I trusted since my youth;
- 6 I still put all my trust in you
As I have always done since birth;
You guarded and protected me
Since I was in my mother's womb;
In you I always placed my hope.

- 7 But many are astounded, Lord,
That I should undergo such pain,
That I should suffer such distress;
They wonder at my confidence,
My trust and constant hope in you;
They do not seem to know that you
Have always been my rescuer.
- 8 My mouth is therefore full of praise,
Of thanks and praise to you, O Lord;
And all day-long I sing your praise,
I sing the glory of your name.

II. Threatened by Foes

- 9 So now that I am old and gray
And all my strength of former years
Is failing more and more each day,
Do not abandon me, O Lord,
Do not reject me, Lord, I pray.
- 10 You know my foes are threatening me,
They spy on me and slander me;
They gather by themselves and plot,
They plot and scheme to capture me,
- 11 Together they agree and say:
“The Lord has no more care for him,
It seems he has abandoned him:
So let us go in hot pursuit
That we may seize and capture him,
For there is none to rescue him.”
- 12 O Lord, do not depart from me,
Come quickly and deliver me.
- 13 Let those, who seek my life, be shamed,

- Let them be brought to nothing, Lord;
Let those, who seek but harm for me,
Be covered with reproach and shame.
- 14 But I will always hope in you,
And daily praise you more and more.
- 15 My mouth shall long and loud proclaim,
Declare your justice day by day;
And tell of how you saved me, Lord,
The many times you helped me, Lord;
- 16 And I will speak of your great might;
Your power, Lord, I will proclaim;
And I will make your justice known,
A justice which is all your own.

III. Perseverance in Old Age

- 17 For you have taught me from my youth,
And since that time I have proclaimed,
Proclaimed your wondrous works, O Lord.
- 18 But now that I am old and gray,
O Lord, do not abandon me;
Stay at my side that I may show
The power of your arm, O Lord,
To all of those who live today,
As also those who are to come;
- 19 That I may show your justice, Lord,
Which reaches to the skies above,
By which you did such wondrous things;
How can there be another God?
There is no other God like you.
- 20 With many trials you tested me,
With many great and painful trials,

- But you will raise me up again
And lift me from the depths, O Lord;
21 Restore my honor and good name
That all may have respect for me;
And comfort me again, O Lord;
22 And I will praise you on the harp,
Will praise you for your faithfulness;
And I will praise you on the lyre,
O holy God of Israel;
23 My lips and voice shall loud rejoice,
My soul shall thrill with joy, O Lord,
When I sing praise and thanks to you;
For you have saved and rescued me:
24 And all day long my tongue shall sing
And loud proclaim your justice, Lord,
Because my foes who seek my life
Have been disgraced and put to shame.

Psalm 72 (71)

THE PROMISED KINGDOM OF PEACE

1. The Kingdom of the Savior

- 1 Endow the king with justice, Lord,
In judgments guide and strengthen him,
- 2 That he may rule your people, Lord,
With fairness rule and govern them,
And judge your poor and lowly ones
With justice and with equity;

- 3 The mountains then shall echo peace,
The hills re-echo righteousness,
4 The king shall guard his lowly ones
And all the children of the poor,
His lowly ones he shall protect;
But he shall overpower those
Who do injustice to the poor.

II. His Kingdom is Eternal

- 5 The king shall live for many years,
Like sun and moon he shall endure,
Throughout the ages he shall live;
6 And he shall be like rain that falls
Upon the meadows and the fields,
Like showers drenching all the earth.
7 And justice in his days shall thrive;
His peace shall spread throughout the land
Until the moon will shine no more;

III. His Kingdom is Universal

- 8 The king shall rule from sea to sea;
And from the river in the east
Unto the boundaries in the west
The king shall govern all the earth.
9 His enemies shall lick the dust,
His foes shall bow to him with awe;
10 The kings of Tarshish and the Isles
Shall offer gifts from farthest west;
The Arab and the Seban kings
Shall bring him tribute from the south;

- 11 And homage shall be given him,
Be given him by all the kings;
The nations all shall honor him,
Shall serve him and be ruled by him.

IV. Mercy for the Poor and Lowly

- 12 And when the poor cry out to him,
The king shall come to rescue them;
And he shall also come to save,
To rescue all who are distressed,
Who find themselves in misery
And have no one to lift them up:
13 His kindness shall reach out to those
Who live a poor and lowly life,
And he shall save and shelter them;
14 From harm, deceit, and violence,
The king shall save and ransom them;
The poor and lowly he shall save,
Their blood is precious in his eyes.

V. A Glorious Kingdom Forever

- 15 The king shall live to see the day
When gold from all Arabia,
As tribute, will be offered him;
And for his kingdom they shall pray
That it be blessed for evermore.
16 The land shall yield abundant grain,
The fruit trees on the mountain tops,
Their branches laden down with fruit,
Shall sway and rustle in the wind,
Like cedars on Mount Lebanon;

**The cities on the slopes below
Shall flourish like the growing grass.**

**17 The king shall be forever blessed,
His name shall always be revered;
As long as sun and moon give light.
In him shall all the tribes be blessed,
The tribes of all the earth be blessed;
And all the nations of the earth
Shall always praise and bless his name.**

**18 Blessed be the God of Israel,
The Lord who does such wondrous things,
And who alone can do such works;
Give praise and glory to his name,
Blessed be his name for evermore;
And may the earth be filled with joy,
With all the glory of the Lord.**

Amen! Amen!

BOOK THREE

Psalms 73-89 (72-88)

Psalm 73 (72)

THE MYSTERY OF HAPPINESS AND EVIL

! Prosperity of the Wicked

- 1 How good God is to upright souls,
To all the pure and clean of heart;
- 2 And yet my feet began to slip,
I staggered till I almost fell;
- 3 Bewildered, I was envious
Of sinners and their life of ease,
To see them prosper in their sin.

- 4 They have no troubles that I see,
Their health is good, their bodies sound,
Their faces sleek and rounded out;
- 5 They seem quite free from vexing fears,
From hardships we must often bear;
- 6 And like a necklace sparkling bright
Their haughty pride encircles them,
A robe of violence covers them;
- 7 They harbor hatred in their hearts
And bitter thoughts run through their minds;
Then from their hearts there soon comes forth

A rushing stream of wickedness,
A flood of evil plots and schemes.

- 8 They scoff and jeer, they shout with hate:
Deluded by their pompous pride,
With overbearing arrogance
They threaten dire punishment,
They threaten vengeance from on high;
- 9 They talk as if they had been sent
By God himself to punish us
And carry out divine revenge;
Their haughty words are spread abroad.
- 10 My people blindly turn to them
And find no fault or wrong in them;
Believing what they hear is true,
They quickly swallow all they hear
And gulp it down like thirsty men;
To our deluded people then
The wicked shout, and jeer at them:
- 11 “But how can God know everything?
How can your so-called Lord and God
Have knowledge of all things on earth?
Does he indeed know anything?”
- 12 So that is how the wicked act,
And that is how they talk and rant;
Their wealth and power grow each day,
They seem secure in every way.

II. The Mystery of Evil

- 13 Have I then prayed and worked in vain
To keep my heart sincere and pure
And wash my hands in innocence?
- 14 For I indeed have suffered much,
Have been afflicted day by day,
And with the dawn of each new day,
My troubles all begin again;
- 15 But if I said within my heart:
“I ought to speak and act like them,”
I would betray your people, Lord,
And those who will be born of them
For all the years that are to come.
- 16 I therefore pondered in my mind
And tried to understand just why
The wicked are so prosperous,
And why the just are poor and weak;
But all of this seemed hard to me,
I could not solve the mystery.
- 17 In spirit then I looked to you
And went into your holy place
To penetrate the mystery;
To you I looked for light and peace
By thinking of their future, Lord,
The final end of wicked men.

III. The Wicked Shall Not Escape Judgment

- 18 For they shall not escape you, Lord,
As they extol themselves on high;
You are prepared to cast them down;
You let them stray on slippery paths,

- And of their own accord they fall,
And finally you cast them off;
- 19 In but a moment they are gone,
Consumed and utterly destroyed,
Quite suddenly they cease to be,
For terror overpowers them.
- 20 When one, who has been dreaming, wakes,
His dream is quickly out of mind;
It fades away and disappears
And is not easily recalled;
So also we shall soon forget
The evil which the wicked wrought
Within your holy city, Lord;
The memory of their evil deeds
Will just as quickly disappear
As fantasies of empty dreams;
When you appear to judge them, Lord,
Their empty lives will pass away
And not be worthy of recall.
- 21 I must confess that when I saw
The wicked grow in wealth and fame,
And saw them strong and powerful,
My heart was filled with bitterness
And I was envious of their lot;
My heart was filled with anguish, Lord.
- 22 But at the time I did not know
And did not understand, O Lord;
I stood before you like a beast
That does not know the role you play
In guiding us upon the way.

IV. The Just Will Receive Their Reward

- 23 But I shall always cling to you:
No longer do I envy those
Whose wicked lives and empty joys
End up in total ruin, Lord;
For you have taken hold of me
And by your right hand held me up,
Lest I should trip and fall again.
- 24 O guide me by your counsel, Lord,
And lead me to a happy end
When you will take me to yourself
To share your glory evermore;
- 25 If I have only you, O Lord,
I need not ask for earthly joys,
For you yourself are heaven, Lord,
And earth without you has no worth.
- 26 My heart and flesh may both grow weak,
But you, O Lord, remain my rock,
The shield and stronghold of my heart,
My rock and portion evermore;
- 27 For those who go away from you
And those who are not faithful, Lord,
Shall perish for eternity.
- 28 How good it is to be near God,
To find my refuge in the Lord;
I therefore loud proclaim your works,
Proclaim them at the city gates,
The gates of Zion's daughter, Lord,
The city of Jerusalem.

Psalm 74 (73)**LAMENTATION OVER JERUSALEM*****1. Sorrow over Destruction of Temple***

- 1 Why have you cast us off, O Lord,
And why are you so angry, Lord,
Against the sheep of your own flock?
- 2 Remember how in days of old
You first built up your flock, O Lord:
The tribes which you redeemed, O Lord,
Your chosen people whom you saved,
You made them your own heritage;
And then recall, on Zion's Mount
You took up your abode, O Lord.
- 3 But turn your steps to Zion now
And see the total ruins there,
The damage which the enemy
Has done within your holy place:
Your foes have ruined everything;
- 4 And now they roar triumphantly,
They shout within your holy place;
Their emblems they have set on high,
Their pagan banners hung aloft
As tokens of their victory.
- 5 They are like those who, with the ax,
Have swung at every tree in sight;
- 6 With hammer and with hatchet now
The precious woodwork they destroyed,
And broke to pieces everything
That once enhanced your temple, Lord.

- 7 They set the temple all ablaze,
Profaned the dwelling of your name,
Profaned your holy place, O Lord,
Where you abide and dwell on earth.
- 8 For they had said within their hearts:
“We must destroy and wipe them out,
Destroy them all and burn their shrines,
The shrines of God throughout the land,
That they may no more worship God.”
- 9 We see no signs to give us hope,
No sacred rites to lift us up,
No prophets who might counsel us,
And no one who would know how long
We must endure these evils, Lord.
- 10 How long must we endure contempt?
How long will you allow our foes
To ridicule and scoff at you?
Will you forever let them, Lord,
Shout blasphemies against your name?
- 11 And why do you withdraw your hand
And keep your right hand hidden, Lord?
Extend it and destroy your foes.

II. Renewed Trust in God

- 12 But you, O God, my king of old,
Are still the savior of the world,
You still can bring salvation, Lord,
Who once worked wondrous deeds on earth:
- 13 The Red Sea you divided, Lord,
So that your people might escape
From Egypt's land of slavery;

- 14 You crushed the water dragons' heads,
You fed the monsters of the deep,
You kept the desert beasts alive;
But Egypt's armies you destroyed,
Your people then in safety fled.
- 15 You brought forth springs and torrents, Lord!
You brought forth dried up riverbeds
Where swollen rivers once had been;
- 16 You rule the day and rule the night,
And all the seas and stars are yours;
You made the sun and moon, O Lord,
You fixed them firmly in their course;
- 17 You fixed the boundaries of the earth;
The summer with its heat and sun,
The winter with its cold and snow,
You made them by your power, Lord.
- 18 Remember all these things, O Lord,
Remember how your enemies
Had mocked you with their blasphemy,
How foolish people scorned your name.
- 19 So do not now abandon us,
Do not expose your turtle-dove,
Lest vultures should devour it;
Lest enemies should take our life,
The life of your own people, Lord;
Be not unmindful, therefore, Lord,
Of your own poor and needy ones,
Who in distress look up to you;
And let them not be crushed or shamed.

- 20 Remember, Lord, your covenant
That you will be our refuge, Lord;
For foes are hiding everywhere
In darkest places of the land;
They stalk the plains and look for prey
On whom to vent their violence.
- 21 Let not your lowly poor turn back,
Nor be confounded and ashamed!
And may your poor, afflicted ones
Give praise and glory to your name.
- 22 Arise, O God, and plead for us,
And take our cause into your hands;
Remember how the fool blasphemes,
Rejects and scorns you day by day;
Be not unmindful of your foes,
Nor how they rage against you, Lord;
Their roar is heard continually,
Their shouts are heard throughout the land.

Psalm 75 (74)

CONFIDENCE IN GOD'S JUSTICE

1. Invitation to Thank and Praise God

- 2 We give you thanks, O Lord, our God,
We give you thanks and praise your name,
And as we call upon your name,
We tell of all your wonders, Lord,
Your words of warning to the proud:

II. Warning to the Proud of Heart

- 3 “When I have fixed the time to judge,
 When time for judgment is at hand,
 Then I will judge with equity;
- 4 The earth may shake on judgment day,
 And all who dwell upon the earth
 May fear and tremble at the sight;
 But it was I who made the earth
 And I shall hold its pillars firm;
 And I shall be the strength of those
 Who put their hope and trust in me;
- 5 To all the wicked on the earth,
 And to the haughty I now say:
 ‘Do not be scoffers, do not boast;
 Give ear, you wicked, to my words:
 Lift not your horns of pride too high,
 Your strength will not avail you much.’”
- 6 Lift not your horns against the Lord,
 Do not attack the Lord, your God;
 And do not speak with haughtiness
 Against the Lord and God, your rock;
- 7 For neither from the east nor west,
 Nor from the mountains in the north,
 Nor from the deserts in the south,
 Will justice come except from God;
- 8 For God himself is judge of all;
 The wicked he humiliates,
 He casts them down upon the earth;
 The upright, who have trusted him,
 He raises up and strengthens them.

- 9 For in his hand God holds a cup,
A cup of spiced and foaming wine:
He pours from it, all drink from it,
And each one drinks his due reward:
Both just and unjust drink from it:
A pleasure for the just to drink
Till only dregs remain in it;
But then the wicked of the earth
Shall drink the dregs and drain the cup.

III. Rejoice in the Lord

- 10 But as for me I will rejoice
And sing with praise to Jacob's God;
11 The wicked, with their boasted strength,
Will be destroyed and broken up;
The upright will be lifted up
By strength which they receive from God.

Psalm 76 (75)

GOD THE SUPREME JUDGE OF THE WORLD

I. God Grants Victory over the Enemy

- 2 In Judah God revealed himself,
His name is great in Israel,
3 His tent is in Jerusalem,
Mount Zion is his dwelling place;
4 The fiery arrows there he broke

As they came flashing through the air;
And other weapons of his foes,
Their shields and words he broke to bits;
The bitter war was ended then.

II. The Enemy is Completely Routed

- 5 O God of power and of might,
 You came in splendor from on high,
 As from the everlasting hills,
 You came with all the spoils of war;
6 The proud of heart now sleep their sleep,
 No longer will they war with you;
 The hands of all your mighty foes
 Have failed, O Lord, to conquer you;
7 At your rebuke and mere command,
 You halted all their chariots,
 And men and horses all lay still
 As if they had been drugged to sleep.

III. Victory is from God the Just Judge

- 8 O fearful God, who can oppose
 The fury of your anger, Lord?
9 Like thunder from the skies above,
 You made your voice of judgment heard,
 The earth then shook with fear and dread;
 And all was silent when you spoke,
10 When you rose up in judgment, Lord,
 To save your lowly ones on earth.

IV. Sincere Thanks are Due to God

- 11 The fury of your conquered foes,
 Of Edom from the farthest south,

Of Emath from the farthest north,
Their very anger praises you,
For mad with joy they thank you, Lord:
As grim survivors of the war
They now have yielded to your might:
They celebrate your festivals
And glory in your name, O Lord.

- 12 And as you make your promises
To thank and praise the Lord, your God,
O Israel, be sure to do
What you have promised to the Lord;
And all you nations round about,
Bring gifts and tribute to the Lord,
The God of terror and of might,
The God of justice evermore,
- 13 Who checks the pride and haughtiness
Of all the princes in the land;
Whose power fills the kings with awe,
Whose anger fills them all with dread.

Psalm 77 (76)

THE MERCY OF GOD

1. Lamentation over the People's Afflictions

- 2 My voice ascends to God on high,
I cry aloud that he may hear;
3 And in the day of my distress

I seek the Lord and cry for help;
At night I pray with hands outstretched
And do not let myself grow faint;
My soul will not be comforted.

- 4 When I direct my thoughts to God,
My spirit fails and faints away,
5 And both my eyes stay wide awake;
My troubles are so great, O Lord,
That I can find no words to speak
And cannot close my eyes in sleep:
6 I ponder on the days of old,
And think of all the years long past;
7 At night I ponder in my heart
And seek to find an answer there
To questions which have troubled me:

- 8 “Will God forever cast us off
And nevermore be kind to us?
9 Will he continue to refuse
His mercy to us evermore?
And will his promise to us fail
For all the years that are to come?
10 Is God no longer merciful?
Has he forgotten all of us?
Has he in anger cast us off?
Has he refused to pity us?”

- 11 I even said within my heart:
“My sorrow seems to come from this:
The right hand of the most high God

- Has changed and been withdrawn from us
And does no longer shelter us;
It seems God has abandoned us.”
- 12 And then I think of all your deeds,
Of all your wondrous works, O Lord;
- 13 I ponder on your deeds of old,
On all that you have done for us.

II. The Mercy of God Brings Consolation

- 14 O God, your ways are all sublime,
Your ways are holy and divine:
What god is greater than our God?
- 15 You are the God whose wondrous works
Have made your might and power known
Among the peoples of the land,
Among the nations of the earth;
- 16 Your mighty arm has rescued us,
Has saved your chosen people, Lord,
The tribe of Jacob and his sons,
The tribe of Joseph and his sons.
- 17 For when the waters saw you, Lord,
When Red Sea waters saw your might,
They trembled and were troubled much,
Were troubled to their very depths;
- 18 The skies were dark with heavy clouds,
The clouds poured down their floods of rain,
The thunder crashed and lightning flashed,
Its fiery arrows quickly spent,
Though for the moment earth and skies
Were bright with white and dazzling light.

- 19 Your whirlwind roared with thundering wind
Your lightning brightened all the earth,
And trembling seized and shook the earth:
20 Through raging seas you made your way,
Your path through deepest waters led,
And yet your footsteps were not seen;
21 You led your people through the sea,
You led them like a flock of sheep,
By Moses' and by Aaron's hand
You led them safely through the sea.

Psalm 78 (77)

GOD'S MERCY AND INGRATITUDE OF HIS PEOPLE

- 1 Give ear, my people, hear me now
And listen as I speak to you;
Give ear to what I have to teach;
2 For I will speak in parables,
And tell you stories of the past,
Enigmas too and mysteries,
That have been handed down to us:
3 What we have heard and what we know,
And what our fathers have preserved,
4 I shall not hide or hold from you,
From you who are their sons and heirs;
But I shall openly declare
The praises of the Lord most high,

The mighty power of the Lord;
The glorious deeds that he has wrought,
The wonders he has done for us.

- 5 He made a law for Jacob's sons
And did the same for Israel:
That to their sons they should narrate
What truths their fathers had been told,
And all that God commanded them;
- 6 That generations still to come
Might know what God had done for them;
That children who are not yet born
May in their time be told these truths,
- 7 And place their hope and trust in God,
And not forget the works of God;
But faithfully keep God's commands,
- 8 Lest they rebel and go astray,
As did our fathers of the past,
A stubborn and rebellious race
Whose heart was far removed from God,
Whose spirit was not turned to God.

1. Infidelities of God's People

- 9 Thus, for example, Ephraim's sons,
Well trained and expert with the bow,
Turned back before they met their foes;
- 10 They did not keep God's covenant,
And would not keep the law of God;
- 11 They had forgotten all his works,
The wonders he had shown to them,
- 12 Which had been often told to them:
How in the land of Egypt's sun

- Their fathers saw what God had done:
How near the plain of Zoan's sands
- 13 The sea was parted wondrously,
The waters stood apart like walls,
And God then led our fathers through
And brought them safely to the shores
Of Sinai's land, where they were safe
From Egypt's cruel slavery.
- 14 He led them by a shining cloud,
A bright and shining cloud by day,
A bright and flaming light by night;
- 15 He split the rocks and quenched their thirst
With gushing water flowing forth;
- 16 From rocks he brought forth flowing springs,
The waters flowed like running streams,
A wonder of the wilderness.

II. They Murmur Against God

- 17 But they continued in their sins
And they rebelled against the Lord,
They sinned against the most high God,
While they were in the wilderness:
- 18 And in their hearts they tempted God,
Demanding that he give them food,
The special food for which they craved.
- 19 They spoke against the Lord, their God,
They murmured and complained of him:
"Can God in all this wilderness
Provide us with the food we crave?
How can he spread a table here
Amid these rocks and desert land?"

- 20 He did, indeed, make waters flow
From out the rock which he had struck;
But can he also give us bread,
And can he give us meat to eat
So that his people may not starve?"
- 21 So when the Lord had heard these words
His anger blazed with fury then
Against the sons of Jacob's tribe,
Against the tribe of Israel;
- 22 For they had openly rebelled
And would not put their faith in God,
No longer trusting in his help.
- 23 And yet he ordered all the clouds,
Commanding them to open up,
- 24 To rain down manna for their food
A bread from heaven for their food.
- 25 When they had eaten of this bread,
It made them well and strong again;
He sent them food beyond their needs;
- 26 Then from the east he sent the wind,
And from the south he sent the wind,
- 27 He rained down flesh on them like dust
In form of quails and desert birds
More numerous than the grains of sand
That pile up on the ocean shores;
- 28 The birds came falling to the ground
Around their tents within the camp.
- 29 They ate and drank and had their fill
Of all the food and drink they craved;
- 30 And yet their craving did not cease,

- And they desired more and more:
Their food was still within their mouth
31 When God in all his anger rose,
Rose up against them in his wrath:
He slew their princes and their chiefs,
The finest youth of Israel.

III. God Again Forgives His People

- 32 Despite all this, they sinned still more
And would not put their faith in God,
Would not believe his wondrous works;
33 And therefore God rose up again,
Deciding that the time had come
For them to end their days on earth.
- 34 When he began to strike them down,
They all set out to look for him;
35 And they recalled that God, the Lord,
Was God their rock, the most high God,
Their savior and their rescuer;
36 Yet with their flattery and deceit,
With mouth and tongue they lied to him.
37 Their hearts were far away from him,
Were not in full accord with him,
Nor did they keep his covenant:
They thought that God could be deceived.
- 38 But God had pity on their souls,
He pardoned and forgave their sins;
He did not will that they should die,
Nor did he seek to ruin them;
He therefore held his anger back

- Lest he should strike them once again
And let them die in sin and guilt;
39 For he remembered they were flesh,
A passing breath that goes forth once,
But never can return again.

IV. Again His People Fall Away from God

- 40 How often they rebelled and sinned,
Provoked the Lord, their God and King;
How often in the wilderness
They grieved him by their faithlessness;
41 Repeatedly they tempted him,
The Holy One of Israel.
42 Remembering not the hand of God,
Not even thinking of the times
When he had saved them from their foes;
They quite forgot what God had done;
The many signs that he had wrought
43 In Egypt's court before the king
And in the country round about;
His wondrous works in Zoan's plain:

44 How Egypt's waters turned to blood,
So that Egyptians died of thirst;
45 The flies he sent devoured them,
The frogs he sent molested them,
46 The grubs and worms ate up their crops;
The locusts too attacked their grain;
47 Their vineyards he destroyed with hail;
Their sycamores he killed with frost;
48 Their cattle too were struck with hail;
Their flocks were killed by thunder bolts:

- 49 He rose against them in his wrath;
 Their hearts were filled with fear and dread;
 They saw divine revenge in this,
 As they were threatened by the plagues;
 They looked on these as signs of woe,
 As warning signs of doom and death
 For all Egyptians in the land.
- 50 God's anger found its way to them,
 And now his wrath was nearly spent,
 He spared them not from death itself:
 Egyptian cattle died of plague,
- 51 Their firstborn children had been slain,
 And all of Egypt loudly wailed,
 Bemoaning all that they had lost.
- 52 The Lord then led his people forth,
 He led them as a flock of sheep,
 And in the desert guided them;
- 53 He led them on, secure and safe;
 They trusted him and had no fear;
 The sea had swallowed up their foes;
- 54 He led them to his holy land,
 The land that he had promised them;
 He led them to his mountains there,
 The mountains he himself possessed,
 Which by his right hand he had gained,
 Which by his power he retained;
- 55 The pagan nations he expelled;
 By lot he gave the tribes their land,
 And thus the tribes of Israel
 In their allotted lands did dwell
 Throughout the promised land of God.

V. Again They Sin and Fall into Idolatry

- 56 But then again they tempted God,
They rose against him and rebelled,
Rebelled against the most high God
And would not heed the laws of God;
57 They went astray in faithlessness,
They turned and went their crooked ways,
As crooked as a twisted bow;
58 They angered God with all their shrines,
The shrines they built on mountain tops
To worship all their pagan gods
Whose images they placed on high
And thus aroused God's jealousy.

- 59 The Lord was angry and displeased
That they now worshipped pagan gods:
He thus rejected Israel:
60 He first abandoned Shiloh's camp,
Then left the tent where he had dwelt
And where the ark had been preserved:
61 This symbol of his might and power
Was taken by the Philistines;
His chosen people Israel
And all the glory of his name,
Which Israel had now betrayed,
Were given over to their foes.

- 62 Their foes then put them to the sword,
For God was angry and displeased,
Was angry at his chosen ones,
Who had not kept their word with him;

- 63 Their youths and maidens unbetrothed
Were seized and put to death by fire;
64 Their priests were all put to the sword,
Nor did their widows mourn for them.

VI. God's Mercy Once Again Prevails

- 65 The Lord then rose as from deep sleep,
Much as a warrior drugged by wine,
When once aroused, goes forth with strength;
66 The Lord came forth, struck down his foes,
And put them all to shameful flight;
67 He had rejected Joseph's tribe,
And Ephraim's tribe he did not choose;
68 But Judah's tribe he chose to dwell
On Zion's mount, which he so loved,
69 Where he his holy temple built,
Where on its summit he might dwell,
As he had once made all the hills
And made the earth, for evermore.
- 70 He made his servant, David, king;
From lowly sheepfold called him forth,
71 He called him from the care of lambs
To be the shepherd of his flock,
That he take care of Jacob's flock
And be the king of Israel,
His own elect and chosen ones.
- 72 And David fed and cared for them,
He cared for them with upright heart,
And led them on with prudent hands,
With skilful hands he guided them.

Psalm 79 (78)

**LAMENTATION OVER THE
RUINS OF JERUSALEM**

I. The Sad State of Jerusalem

- 1 O God, behold the ruins here,
The nations, in their pagan way,
Your holy temple have defiled,
Your heritage they have destroyed;
Jerusalem in shambles lies,
Reduced to ruins by your foes;
- 2 The bodies of your servants, Lord,
Whom they in pagan fury killed,
They left for vultures to devour;
The bodies of your saints, O Lord,
They left as prey for roving beasts;
- 3 Their blood was poured upon the ground,
It flowed like water through the streets,
All round about Jerusalem,
And there was none to bury them.
- 4 Our neighbors all look down on us,
For we have been disgraced, O Lord;
Our foes have shamed and ruined us,
And we are mocked and scorned by all;
We have become the laughingstock
Of all those round about us, Lord.

II. Lamentation: Jerusalem in Ruins

- 5 How long, O Lord, will this endure?
Will you be angry evermore?

And will your wrath and jealousy
Be like a never ending fire?
Or like an all consuming flame?

- 6 Why not pour out your wrath on those
Who in their pagan way do not
Acknowledge you or call on you?
They do not call upon your name,
But worship other gods instead;
- 7 They now have ruined Jacob's tribe,
His dwelling they have laid to waste.
- 8 Do not impute to us, O Lord,
Our fathers' sins and faithlessness;
And may your mercy quickly come
To help us, Lord, in our distress,
And from our misery lift us up.

III. Plea for Forgiveness

- 9 O help us, God, and lift us up,
Our Savior and our rescuer;
And for the glory of your name,
Forgive our sins and pardon us,
Deliver us and rescue us:
- 10 Why should the nations shout aloud:
"Where is their God? Where is their God?"
Let all the nations know, O Lord,
And prove to them before our eyes,
That you avenge your servants' blood,
Avenge the shedding of their blood.

IV. Plea for Help Against Enemies

- 11 And may our tears and sighs, O Lord,
The cries of prisoners in distress,
Reach up to you and move you, Lord,
To lift us up and set us free,
To hold us with your mighty arms,
Or else we shall be doomed to death.
- 12 And then let retribution come
When you, with sevenfold disgrace,
Will heap reproach upon our foes
As much as they have heaped on you,
O Lord, our God and rescuer.
- 13 Then we your people and your sheep,
The sheep of your own pasture, Lord,
Will sing your glory evermore,
And praise you, Lord, from age to age.

Psalm 80 (79)**THE VINEYARD OF THE LORD*****I. Restore Your Vineyard, Lord***

- 2 O Israel's shepherd, hearken now,
O guide of Joseph's flock, give ear!
Enthroned upon the cherubim,
- 3 Reveal yourself to Ephraim!
Reveal yourself to Benjamin
And to Manasseh's tribe as well!

Rouse up your might and strength, O Lord,
And come to save and rescue us.

- 4 O God of hosts, restore us now,
And give new life to all of us;
O turn your face to shine on us,
To shine on us and save us, Lord.

II. Give us New Life, O Lord

- 5 O Lord of hosts, how long will you
Be angry and enraged at us?
We still are your own people, Lord,
And call upon your holy name:
Do you refuse to hear us, Lord?
- 6 You fed us with the bread of tears,
You gave us many tears to drink;
- 7 You made of us the cause of strife,
Of strife among our neighbors, Lord;
And we became the laughingstock
Of all our neighbors round about;
Our enemies derided us,
Our foes reproached and mocked us, Lord.
- 8 O God of hosts, restore us now,
And give new life to all of us;
O turn your face to shine on us,
To shine on us and save us, Lord.

III. Recall Your Former Love for Us

- 9 You brought a vine from Egypt, Lord,
The sturdy vine of Israel;

- You drove the nations from the land,
You drove them from the promised land
And planted Israel in their place;
10 You cleared the ground and harrowed it,
So that the vine could soon take root;
It quickly grew and filled the land;
11 It cast its shadow on the hills,
Its branches reached the cedar trees,
The trees of Lebanon to the north;
12 And to the west it spread out far,
Its branches reached the western sea;
Its pastures spread out to the east
And reached the fertile river banks;
Your people spread throughout the land.

IV. Protect Us Against Our Enemies

- 13 But now its fences are destroyed,
The hedges of your vineyard gone,
So that each one who passes by
Can pluck its fruit and strip the vine,
Can rob the fruit and take his fill.
14 The forest boar lays waste to it,
The roving beasts devour it,
How long will you endure this, Lord?
15 O God of hosts, come back to us,
And turn your face and look on us;
Come, visit us, take care of us,
So that your vine be not destroyed:
16 Protect your vine with your right hand,
The vine that you have planted, Lord,
Your chosen people Israel,

Your chosen and elected ones,
Whom you had once made strong and great.

V. We Promise to Be Faithful

17 But, Lord, your vine has been burnt down,
Torn down and ruined by your foes;
Now surely they will perish, Lord,
When they are brought into your sight,
And you rebuke and judge them, Lord.

18 So help us and stay near us, Lord,
Protect us with your strong right arm,
Your chosen people Israel;
You once had made us strong and great,
For your own sake you made us great;

19 So help us and stay near us, Lord,
And we shall never leave your side,
Nor shall we ever go astray;
And you will give new life to us,
And we shall call upon your name.

20 O God of hosts, restore us now,
And give new life to all of us;
O turn your face to shine on us,
To shine on us and save us, Lord.

Psalm 81 (80)**A FESTIVE SONG OF
JOY AND HOPE*****I. Sing with Joy to the Lord***

- 2 O sing with joy to God our strength,
To God our helper and our shield;
O shout with joy to Jacob's God.
- 3 Bring out the harps and timbrels now,
Let maidens sound the tambourines,
Let harp and lyre lead the psalms
With sweet and pleasing melodies;
- 4 And at the new moon blow the horn
That all may gather for the feast;
At full moon also blow the horn
That all may celebrate with joy
The full moon's solemn festive day.
- 5 Such is the law for Israel,
As Jacob's God himself decreed,
- 6 And gave the law to Joseph's tribe
When God opposed the pharaoh's will
And led his people safely forth
From Egypt's cruel slavery.

II. God Alone is to be Adored

I heard a strange and curious speech,
A message long unknown to me,
Announcing that we would be freed
From Egypt's cruel slavery:

- 7 “I now declare, you will be freed
From burdens which your shoulders bore;
The heavy baskets you will drop,
Your hands and arms will soon be freed.
- 8 “You cried to me in your distress,
I quickly came to rescue you;
With thunderstorms I answered you;
And at the springs of Meribah,
Which from the rock came gushing forth,
I tested your fidelity,
I tried your faith and trust in me.
- 9 Give ear, my people, to my words;
I warn you, be not deaf to me;
I beg you, hear me, Israel:
- 10 Let no false gods be in your midst,
Nor offer sacrifice to them;
- 11 “I am your only Lord and God:
I led you forth from Egypt’s sands,
From Egypt’s cruel slavery;
Whenever you may be in need
I shall provide abundantly:
If you but open wide your heart,
It will be filled with all good things.

III. Listen to the Word of the Lord

- 12 “But you, my people, heard me not,
And Israel did not obey:
- 13 I therefore let you go your way,
I gave you up, abandoned you,
And in the hardness of your hearts
I left you to your own designs.

- 14 “O that my people would give ear,
That Israel would walk my ways;
15 I would at once cast down your foes
And conquer all your enemies;
16 Then those who hate the Lord would cringe
Before my people Israel;
Your foes would offer flattery,
But they would find that they had sealed
Their destiny for evermore.
- 17 “But my own people I would feed
With choicest wheat and finest bread,
And satisfy them even more
With honey taken from the rock.”

Psalm 82 (81)

UNJUST RULERS

I. God Alone is Supreme

- 1 O all you rulers of the land,
The people look on you as gods,
For you are often deified
And you are made to seem like gods;

But you should all remember this:
That God the Lord is still supreme
With power over all the earth;
And over rulers he presides;

He sits in judgment over them;
Reproachfully he says to them:

II. A Plea for Justice

- 2 “How long will your injustice last?
Why do you favor evil men?
And why do you defend their cause,
The evil cause of evil men?
- 3 “You must defend the fatherless,
The lowly poor and those oppressed;
Protect the rights of those in need,
- 4 And rescue those who are distressed,
Deliver them from evil men.”

III. Warning to Unjust Rulers

- 5 Some rulers do not seem to know,
They do not seem to understand
That they must rule with righteousness;
For as it is, they walk around
In darkness and in ignorance,
While all the world about them shakes,
And chaos reigns throughout the land;
- 6 I too once said that they are gods,
And sons of God, the Lord most high;
- 7 But like all mortals they shall die,
And they shall fall like any prince,
As mortals they shall fall and die.
- 8 Rise up, O God, and judge the earth;
The nations of the earth are yours,
And you are ruler over them.

Psalm 83 (82)**PRAYER FOR HELP
AGAINST ENEMIES*****1. Threatened by Enemies on All Sides***

- 2 Be not unmoved and quiet, Lord,
Do not in silence make us wait,
Give ear and hearken to our plea;
- 3 Behold, our foes are on the march,
Inciting tumult everywhere;
And they who hate you lift their heads,
With haughty pride they toss their heads;
- 4 They plot against your people, Lord,
Against your chosen heritage;
With craftiness they plot and scheme
Against all those whom you protect;
- 5 Together they agree and say:
“Rise up and let us now destroy
This nation which their God protects,
So that the name of Israel
May be forgotten evermore.”
- 6 Indeed, together they agree
And have allied themselves as one,
Have formed a league against you, Lord:
- 7 The Edomites and Ishmaelites,
The Moabites and Hagarenes,
- 8 The Gebalites and Ammonites,

- The Amalekites, the Philistines,
And those who dwell in Tyre too;
9 Assyrians also joined with them
By lending all their arms and strength
To reinforce the sons of Lot.

II. May All Our Foes Acknowledge God as Lord

- 10 So deal with them as you once did
When Midianites had captured us,
Subjected us for seven years:
You sent your leader Gedeon
To rescue us and save us, Lord;

Or deal with them as you once did
By routing Jabin in the north,
And his commander Sisera;
For twenty years they held us slaves:
11 At Endor then you beat them down,
In Kishon's torrent they were drowned:
Our foes will then become like them,
No more than filth upon the ground.
12 And treat the princes of our foes
As once with Oreb and with Zeb,
With Zebah and with Zalmunna,
You struck them down and slew them, Lord,
13 When they had solemnly resolved:
"Now let us all as one march up
And take unto ourselves the lands
Which Israel's God claims for himself."

14 May they be tossed and thrown about,
As leaves caught up in whirling winds,
As chaff is scattered far and wide;

- 15 As fire rages through the trees,
As fiery flames set hills ablaze,
16 Pursue them, Lord, with stormy winds,
And give them cause to fear you, Lord;
May they forever hide their face
17 And blush with shame for all their crimes.
Lest they should perish in disgrace,
18 That all may know to seek your name;
Let all take note and praise your name,
19 And let them know that you are God,
That you are God, the Lord most high,
And that you govern all the earth.

Psalm 84 (83)

LOVE FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD

I. I Long for Your Courts, O Lord

- 2 How lovely is your dwelling place
On Zion's Mount, O Lord of hosts;
3 My soul is longing for your courts,
And yearning for your house, O Lord;
My heart and all my flesh cry out,
Rejoicing in the living God.

4 The sparrows even have their home,
And swallows also have their nest
Where they can put their young to rest;
But as for me, a pilgrim now,

I long to see your altars, Lord,
On which to offer sacrifice,
O Lord of hosts, my king and God.

II. Happy Those Who Go to Your House

- 5 How happy those who sing your praise,
Who sing your praise for evermore,
Who dwell within your house, O Lord;
- 6 How happy those whose strength you are,
And who receive their help from you;
When they set out on pilgrimage
To visit your abode, O Lord,
They have no other thought but you;
- 7 And, as they come near Zion's Mount,
They cross the dried up valley there,
But in their zeal they walk along
As if it flowed with gushing springs;
They are so happy to be near
Your dwelling on Mount Zion, Lord;
They know that early rains will come
And make the valley green again:
- 8 From strength to strength they move along;
They do not mind the hardship now
As they the dried up valley cross,
For they shall meet the God of gods
On Zion's Mount where he abides.

III. Happy Those Who Dwell in Your House

- 9 O hearken to my prayer now,
Lord God of Jacob, hear my plea;
Lord God of hosts, and God of gods;
- 10 O God, behold our king and shield,
Our king, your own anointed one;
- 11 Indeed, a day spent in your courts
Is better than a thousand days
Spent elsewhere on this earth, O Lord;
For I would rather dwell with you
And even stand all day and wait
Around the threshold of your door
Than dwell with sinners in their tents.
- 12 The Lord, our God, our sun and shield,
His grace upon us he bestows
And freely shares his splendor bright;
He offers all good things to those
Who walk his ways in innocence.
- 13 How happy those who trust in you,
Lord God of hosts, and God of gods.

Psalm 85 (84)**SALVATION*****I. God's Past Kindnesses Are Recalled***

- 2 How gracious you have been, O Lord,
For you have greatly favored us
And Jacob's fortune you restored,
Our land you have restored to us;
- 3 Our guilt you have forgiven us,
And you have covered all our sins;
- 4 You are no longer angry, Lord,
The fury of your wrath has ceased.

II. O God, Come to Our Rescue

- 5 O God our Savior, rescue us,
Restore us, give new life to us;
And put aside your anger, Lord,
And be no longer vexed with us;
- 6 Will you be angry evermore?
And will your wrath continue on
Through all the ages yet to come?
- 7 And will you not restore us, Lord?
Revive us and give life to us,
That we may have good reason, Lord,
As your own people, to rejoice,
Rejoice in you for evermore.
- 8 O show us your great mercy, Lord,
And your salvation grant to us.

III. *Salvation Is Near at Hand*

- 9 And I will now give ear, O Lord,
To all that you may say to us,
For you, indeed, will speak of peace
To all your people and your saints,
To all your faithful ones, O Lord,
Who in their heart are turned to you,
Who put their trust and hope in you;
- 10 For surely your salvation, Lord,
Will come to all who reverence you;
And may your glory once again
Return and dwell within your land;
- 11 Your mercy and your truth shall meet,
And peace and justice shall embrace;
- 12 Your truth shall sprout up from the earth,
And justice from on high look down;
- 13 The Lord will then his goodness show
That all the earth may yield its fruit;
- 14 While justice walks before the Lord,
Salvation follows in his steps.

Psalm 86 (85)

**A PUBLIC PRAYER IN
TROUBLESOME TIMES**

I. O God, Be Merciful

- 1 O turn your ear and answer me,
 Your poor, afflicted servant, Lord;
- 2 Preserve and guard my soul and life,
 For I belong to you, O Lord,
 And am devoted to your will;
 O save me, Lord, I trust in you;
 I am your humble servant, Lord.

- 3 You are my God, be merciful,
 Have pity on me, Lord, my God;
 I cry to you from morn till night;
- 4 Bring gladness to your servant, Lord,
 To you I lift my soul for joy;
- 5 For you are good and merciful
 And kind to all who call on you.

- 6 O listen to my prayer, Lord,
 And heed the pleading of my voice;
- 7 In time of need I cry to you,
 For surely you will hear me, Lord.

II. Let All the Nations Worship God

- 8 No other gods can equal you,
 No works of theirs can equal yours;
- 9 And all the nations, which you made,

- Shall come to worship you, O Lord,
 And they shall loud proclaim your name;
 10 For you are great and wonderful
 In all the works that you perform,
 And you alone are God, O Lord.

III. Let Us Walk the Way of Truth

- 11 O teach us, Lord, to walk your way,
 To walk the way of truth and life;
 And guide our hearts to fear your name;
 12 And we shall praise you, Lord, our God,
 With all our hearts we praise your name,
 Forever loud proclaim your name,
 13 Because your love for us is great:
 Your kindness to us never failed,
 And you have saved and rescued us,
 From dark Sheol have rescued us.
- 14 The proud rise up against us, Lord,
 The wicked plot against our life
 And turn their eyes away from you;
 15 But you, O Lord, are merciful,
 Compassionate and slow to wrath,
 A faithful God of love and truth;
 16 O look upon your servants, Lord,
 In your great mercy, give us strength,
 And rescue us from wicked foes;
 17 Present us with some sign, O Lord,
 That they who hate us may be shamed
 At seeing how you help us, Lord,
 And how you comfort us in trial.

Psalm 87 (86)**ZION THE MOTHER OF
ALL THE PEOPLES****A. The Glories of Jerusalem**

- 1-2 The Lord loves Zion's holy place,
The mountains of Jerusalem,
For there his holy temple stands;
He takes delight in Zion's heights,
And loves the gates of Zion more,
Much more than all of Jacob's tents.
- 3 What glorious things are said of you,
O city of the Lord, our God:

B. All the Peoples Shall serve God

- 4 I think of those Egyptians first
Who much like Rahab turned to you;
I think of those in Babylon
Who once began to worship you;
To these I add the Philistines,
Phoenicians, Ethiopians,
Who turned to you, with faith in you,
Accepting you as Lord and God,
And thus they ranked as citizens
Of Zion and Jerusalem.
- 5 Of Zion it shall thus be said:
"In Zion each was born anew,
And God the most high Lord himself
Has strengthened all Jerusalem

And made her mother of them all,
Of all the nations on the earth.”

C. All Will be Citizens of Jerusalem

- 6 The Lord will then enroll them all
And write their names into the book
Of all the peoples who believed
And put their hope and trust in him;
Their names he enters in the book
And says of all his newly born:
“They have been born anew at last
In Zion, in Jerusalem;
They now are truly citizens
Of Zion and Jerusalem.”
- 7 And they shall sing and dance with joy:
“In you, O Zion, is my home.”

Psalm 88 (87)

PRAYER IN TIME OF DESOLATION

I. Abandoned by All

- 2 O Lord, my God, I cry to you,
All day I cry to you for help,
At night I weep before your throne;
- 3 May my petitions reach you, Lord;
Give ear and listen to my cry;

- 4 For pain and misery fill my soul;
My life has reached the brink of death.
- 5 They have already counted me
As one about to leave this life
And go into the darkened pit;
I am as one who has no strength,
- 6 As one whose bed is with the dead,
Among those lying in the grave,
Who now are far removed from you,
No more remembered for their deeds;
- 7 And so I feel as one confined
To Sheol's darkness in the pit,
To linger in the deep abyss,
As if you had abandoned me.
- 8 Your anger weighs upon me, Lord,
The stormy waves of your great wrath
Completely overwhelm me, Lord.
- 9 My friends you have removed from me,
They loathe the very sight of me;
Locked up in darkness by myself,
I find I am no longer free,
No longer free to come and go.

II. Urgent Plea for God's Help

- 10 My eyes are growing dim from grief;
My arms I stretch out pleadingly
And daily cry to you for help.
- 11 Will you work wonders for the dead?
And will the dead rise up again
To give you thanks and praise your name?

- 12 Or will your goodness be proclaimed,
Your faithfulness declared by those
Who in the darkness of the tomb
Lie dead and helpless in the grave?
- 13 How can your wonders be proclaimed
Amidst the darkness of the dead?
How can your faithfulness be known
Where all is dark oblivion?

III. Continued Plea for Mercy

- 14 I therefore cry to you, O Lord,
At early morn I pray to you.
- 15 But why do you reject me, Lord?
Why do you hide your face from me?
- 16 Throughout my life since early youth,
I have been filled with misery,
And death has daily plagued me, Lord,
I have been dying every day;
Your terrors I have borne each day;
But now I am exhausted, Lord.
- 17 Your wrath has overwhelmed me,
Your terrors have destroyed me, Lord,
- 18 Like angry waves surrounding me,
Engulfing me on every side.
- 19 My one companion and true friend
You took away from me, O Lord,
And now I sit alone in grief,
And darkness is my only friend.

Psalm 89 (88)**GOD'S PROMISES TO DAVID*****I. God's Faithfulness***

- 2 The Lord's great mercies I will sing,
Forever will I sing his praise;
I shall declare the faithfulness
Of God, the Lord, from age to age.
- 3 For you have solemnly declared:
"My love and mercy have been made
To last for all eternity."
Your faithfulness has been confirmed,
Made firm by you in heaven's heights:
- 4 You promised David under oath:
"I made a covenant with him,
With David, my own chosen one;
To him, my servant, I thus swore:
Your offspring I will keep and bless
That you may rule for evermore;
And I will make your throne secure
That it may last from age to age."

II. God's Majesty and Power

- 6 The heavens declare your goodness, Lord,
Proclaim your great and wondrous works;
Your faithfulness is known to all
The heavenly spirits round your throne;
- 7 For who can be compared to God?
And who of all your creatures, Lord,

- Or of the angels round your throne,
Shall be like you, our Lord and God?
- 8 The holy ones in heaven's courts
Bow down in awe to worship God;
With loving fear they praise his name,
Declare his greatness over all,
His greatness over all the earth.
- 9 O God, the Lord of heavenly hosts,
No one can ever equal you:
You are the mighty one, O Lord,
And faithfulness surrounds you, Lord.
- 10 You rule the sea in all its might,
You still the fury of its waves;
- 11 And Rahab, monster of the sea,
You crushed and pierced with mortal blow;
Your foes you scattered far and wide
With mighty arm you conquered them.
- 12 The heavens are yours, the earth is yours,
And all the world was made by you:
- 13 The regions north and south you made;
Thus Tabor and Mount Hermon, too,
With joy give praise unto your name.
- 14 Your mighty arm is powerful,
Your hands are strong and firm, O Lord,
You keep your right hand raised up high.
- 15 Your throne is firmly founded, Lord,
On justice and on righteousness;
And you yourself are guided, Lord,
By grace and truth and faithfulness,
Which show themselves in all your works.

- 16 How happy are the people, Lord,
Who sing to you with songs of joy,
While walking in your presence, Lord,
And guided by your light and truth:
- 17 All day they praise your name with joy,
Your righteousness has raised them up.
- 18 Your glory is indeed their strength;
Your saving grace has raised them up.
- 19 Our only shield is God, the Lord,
Our sole protection is our king,
The holy one of Israel.

III. God's Promises to David

- 20 In visions and in prophecy
You spoke to all your faithful ones:
You asked that Nathan prophesy
To David in your name, O Lord:
- “A mighty hero I have crowned,
My chosen one I raised up high,
Above all others honored him;
- 21 I found the one that I would crown,
My servant David I have found;
With holy oil anointed him;
- 22 And thus my hand will hold him up,
My arm will always strengthen him;
- 23 No foes will catch him unawares,
Nor will the wicked cast him down;
- 24 For I will scatter all his foes,
And those who hate him I will crush.

- 25 “And I will show great faithfulness
And mercy toward my chosen one,
In all that I have promised him;
And in my name he will be saved,
My saving grace will lift him up.
- 26 His rule will reach out far and wide,
His hand will reach out to the sea,
His right hand to Euphrates’ banks;
- 27 And he shall cry to me with trust:
‘You are my Father and my God,
My Rock and Savior evermore!’
- 28 “And I will give him all the rights
Belonging to a first-born son;
And he will have the highest place
Among the rulers of the earth.
- 29 “My love for him shall never cease;
The promises I made to him
And swore by covenant to keep,
Shall always faithfully be kept.
- 30 And I will make his offspring last
For endless ages on the earth;
His throne will be forever firm.
- 31 “And if his people go astray,
If they forsake my law and way,
And follow not the way of truth;
- 32 If they my precepts should reject
And my commandments not observe,
- 33 I will then punish their offense,
With rod and stripes will punish them;

- 34 And yet I will not take away
My favor from my chosen ones;
My love for them will still remain,
Nor will I break my promises.
- 35 "I will not break my covenant,
Nor change the promise of my lips:
36 That is the oath which I have sworn,
By all my righteousness have sworn;
And David I will not deceive;
37 And David's offspring shall not fail,
Shall last forever, as the sun,
38 Or like the moon, which never fails,
A faithful witness in the skies."

IV. David Feels Abandoned by God

- 39 But now, it seems, you cast me off,
And have rejected me, O Lord;
Your anger has come down on me,
Your chosen and anointed one.
- 40 Your covenant no longer holds,
Your servant is abandoned, Lord,
His royal crown has been profaned,
Thrown down and cast upon the ground;
- 41 His walls have all been broken down,
His ramparts ruined and destroyed;
- 42 And all that pass him by the way
Have robbed and plundered all his goods;
He has become the laughingstock
Of all his friends and neighbors, Lord.
- 43 You have exalted all his foes,

- The right hand of his foes you raised,
You filled his enemies with joy;
44 You dulled the sharpness of his sword,
In battle you abandoned him;
45 You robbed him of his glory, Lord,
You cast his throne upon the ground;
46 You made him old before his time,
And covered him with every shame.

V. David Pleads for God's Favor

- 47 How long will you stay hidden, Lord?
Will you forever hide your face?
How long will you be angry, Lord?
Your wrath is like a fiery flame.
- 48 Remember, Lord, our life is short;
Have you created us in vain,
That we should live in wretchedness
As fragile creatures here below?
49 For who can live and not see death?
And who can ever find escape
From going down into the grave?
- 50 O Lord, where are your former deeds,
Your acts of love and faithfulness
Which you once promised under oath
To David your own chosen one?
- 51 Remember, Lord, the shameful way
In which your servants are reproached;
How I myself the shame must bear

- Of all the insults heaped on us
By hateful gentiles everywhere;
52 The insults of your enemies
Are heaped up high upon us, Lord,
Upon your own anointed one,
Reproaching him at every step.
- 53 Now may the Lord, our God, be blessed
For evermore! Amen! Amen!

BOOK FOUR

Psalms 90-106 (89-105)

Psalm 90 (89)

MEDITATION ON HUMAN LIFE

1. Our Life on Earth is Short

- 1 You always were our refuge, Lord,
From age to age you sheltered us;
- 2 Before the mountains had appeared,
Before you made the world and earth,
From all eternity you were
The everlasting God and Lord.
- 3 Your word alone suffices, Lord,
To turn us back to dust again,
To turn us back to what we were.
- 4 A thousand years within your sight
Are little more than yesterday,
Which quickly came, then went away;
For you, O Lord, a thousand years
Pass by as swiftly as the night,
As swiftly as a watch at night,
A sentry's single watch at night.
- 5 Our life upon this earth is short;

- Our years are quickly ended, Lord;
And soon you snatch us from this earth:
Our years seem like a morning dream,
Or like the grass that springs up fresh,
6 All green and bright with morning dew;
At evening it is then mowed down
And soon it dries and shrivels up.

II. Let Us Value Each Day

- 7 The fire of your anger, Lord,
Is burning and consuming us;
8 Our sins are always in your sight;
Our hidden sins do not escape
Your bright and penetrating gaze:
9 Your anger, Lord, has caused our days
To pass away and disappear;
Our years have ended like a sigh,
As quick as thoughts they pass away.
- 10 Though seventy years of life on earth
Be granted to the most of us,
Or eighty to the stronger ones,
Yet most of these are empty toil:
The years too quickly fly away
And we too quickly pass away.
- 11 Now as the fear of you demands
When have we ever pondered much
Upon the power of your wrath,
Or on your indignation, Lord,
Because of our unfaithfulness?
- 12 O teach us, Lord, to count our days

That we may be more wise of heart
And know the value of each day.

III. Let Us Be Glad of Heart

- 13 Suppress your wrath, be kind to us,
How long must we yet wait, O Lord?
Return to us, your chosen ones,
Have mercy on your servants, Lord,
- 14 And quickly flood us with your love,
That all our days we may rejoice;
- 15 Bring gladness to our hearts, O Lord,
To make up for the days of wrath,
When angry you afflicted us;
To make up for the days and years
When we so many evils saw.
- 16 So let your works be manifest
To all your chosen servants, Lord;
And let your glory be revealed
To all their offspring yet to come.
- 17 Thus may your gracious goodness, Lord,
Come down on us and prosper us,
Make fruitful all the works we do
And give success to us, O Lord,
Success in all we do and say.

Psalm 91 (90)**TRUST IN GOD'S PROTECTION*****I. God Protects and Cares for Us***

- 1 O all you just who trust in God,
Your only refuge is the Lord;
He shelters you beneath his wings;
- 2 You can with joy then say to him:
"You are my refuge and my strength,
O God, in you I place my trust."
- 3 For he will free you from the snares
Of foes who seek to capture you,
And from all deadly pestilence;
- 4 Beneath his wings he shelters you,
Where you take refuge from your foes;
God's faithfulness will always be
A buckler and a shield for you.
- 5 And you will never need to fear
The terrors that the night may bring,
Nor arrows that may fly by day;
- 6 Nor need you fear the pestilence
That in the darkness prowls about;
Nor need you fear the noonday plague
That threatens ruin everywhere.
- 7 Though at your side a thousand fall,
Or at your right ten thousand fall,
The plague shall not come near to you;
- 8 But you will see with your own eyes
How sinners all receive their due.

- 9 Your only refuge is the Lord,
The most high God your sole defense,
10 No evil shall come near to you,
Nor will the plague come near your tent.
11 For he has placed you in the care
Of angels he has set apart
To guide and guard you in your ways;
12 And with their hands they hold you up,
Lest you should stumble on a stone.
13 And so you shall with safety tread
On snakes and vipers in your path,
And you shall trample underfoot
The lion and the dragon, too.

II. God Speaks Words of Assurance

- 14 Because the just have trusted me,
And put their faith and hope in me,
I will protect and make them free,
Because they have proclaimed my name;
15 And when they call on me for help,
I will be there to hear their plea;
In trouble I will be with them,
Will rescue and will honor them.

16 And I will give them length of days,
Will save them and will shelter them.

Psalm 92 (91)**THE GOODNESS OF GOD*****I. Praise the Lord for His Goodness***

- 2 How good it is to thank you, Lord,
In joyful song to sing your praise,
To praise your name, O most high God;
- 3 And loud proclaim at early morn
The mercy you have shown to me;
Each night your faithfulness declare;
- 4 And on the ten-stringed harp and lyre
To sing and praise your holy name;
- 5 For you bring gladness to my heart
By all your wondrous deeds to me;
And therefore I rejoice in song
Because of your great works, O Lord.

II. Sinners Will Be Brought to Trial

- 6 How great indeed are all your works,
How deep are all your thoughts, O Lord;
- 7 But there are those who do not know:
The foolish do not understand
Your wondrous works and goodness, Lord.
- 8 Though sinners flourish like the grass,
And workers of iniquity
Display their wealth with haughty pride,
They will some day be brought to trial
And be destroyed for evermore.
- 9 But you, for all eternity,
Will be our most high God and Lord.

III. God Will Triumph Over His Enemies

- 10 Behold, O Lord, your enemies
Will perish in the course of time;
The workers of iniquity
Will be destroyed and scattered wide.
- 11 But you have made me strong, O Lord,
With all the power of an ox,
With oil you have anointed me,
With purest oil have strengthened me.
- 12 My eyes look down upon my foes,
As they are scattered far and wide;
My ears have heard the joyous news:
That those who rose against me, Lord,
Have now been beaten down and crushed.

IV. God Will Bless His Faithful Ones

- 13 The just shall flourish like the palms,
Like cedars on Mount Lebanon;
- 14 The faithful who frequent your house
And worship in your temple, Lord,
Like palms and cedars they shall grow
And flourish in your courts, O Lord,
As if they had been planted there.
- 15 And even when advanced in years
They shall, like tall and sturdy trees,
Bring forth good fruit for years to come.
- 16 And thus they shall make known to all
How upright is the Lord, our Rock,

How just and faithful is the Lord
In whom no evil can be found.

Psalm 93 (92)

GOD THE RULER OF THE WORLD

- 1 The Lord is king, he rules the world;
With strength and power he is clothed,
With splendor and with majesty,
With all the beauty of the world,
The beauty of the earth and skies;
He made the world and fixed its course,
From which it does not stray or swerve.
- 2 And since the time the world was made
Your throne, O Lord, stood firm and fast,
And you yourself have always been
The one eternal God and Lord.
- 3 The raging waters rise up high,
The stormy seas lift up their voice,
The waters thunder loud and wild;
- 4 But God, in all his majesty,
Is mightier than the stormy seas,
Than all the mighty roaring waves.
- 5 Your truths and your decrees, O Lord,
Are most deserving of our faith;
And holiness befits your house,

Befits your holy temple, Lord,
Where your own chosen, faithful ones,
Give praise and glory to your name
For all their days upon the earth.

Psalm 94 (93)

THE JUSTICE OF GOD

A. God Punishes the Sinner

I. How Long Will Sin Prevail?

- 1 O God of justice, show yourself,
Remove the evil that abounds;
- 2 Rise up, O judge of all the earth,
And shame the crowd in their deceptions.
- 3 How long will sinners yet prevail
And glory in their triumph, Lord?
- 4 Their haughtiness and insolence,
Their hatred and contempt for us,
Are more than we can stand, O Lord.

II. The Cruelty of Sin

- 5 They ridicule your chosen ones,
By scorning and insulting them,
Afflicting and oppressing them;
- 6 They murder widows senselessly,
They slay the foreign guests who come,
They kill off all the fatherless;

- 7 With overbearing pride, they jeer:
“The Lord will never see these things,
The God of Jacob pays no heed.”

III. The Foolishness of Sin

- 8 My people, why do you not see?
And why do you not understand?
Give up your senseless, wicked ways,
And be no longer haughty fools,
But follow wisdom's holy ways.
- 9 Can he not hear, who made the ear?
Can he not see, who formed the eye?
- 10 And he who taught the nations truth,
Who showed them wisdom's discipline,
Shall he not judge them for their crimes?
Shall he not therefore punish them,
When they depart from his decrees?
- 11 The Lord, indeed, knows all their thoughts,
He reads their minds and knows how vain
Are all the works which they pursue.

B. God's Faithfulness

I. Justice Will Prevail

- 12 How blessed are those whom you instruct,
To whom you give your law, O Lord,
Who walk the way of your decrees;
- 13 For you will spare and shelter them
From wickedness in evil days,

- Until the pit is opened up
And sinners cast into the grave.
- 14 Indeed, the Lord will not reject,
Will not cast off his faithful ones,
Will not forsake his heritage;
- 15 For judgment will eventually
Be carried out with righteousness,
The upright will receive their due,
Will be rewarded by the Lord.

II. The Grace of God Will Help Us

- 16 Now who will help me in my need?
And who will stand up for my cause
Against unjust and hateful foes?
- 17 Unless the Lord came to my aid,
I would be lying in the grave,
In dark and gloomy silence there.
- 18 And when I think: "I am about
To slip and stumble on the way,"
Your mercy, Lord, comes to my aid,
And you uphold and shelter me;
- 19 When cares and worries flood my heart,
You are my comfort and delight,
You are my consolation, Lord.

III. God Gives to All What They Deserve

- 20 How could the courts of wickedness
Have you for their ally, O Lord?
They twist the law to suit themselves,
And make believe it is your law;
They make their evil deeds seem right,

They place great burdens on our backs,
And cause vexation everywhere.

- 21 Although they may attack the just
And seek to take their life, O Lord,
And though they may condemn the just
And seek the blood of guiltless ones,
22 Yet you will surely be our shield
And be our rock and refuge, Lord.
- 23 You give to all what they deserve,
Repaying sinners for their crimes:
And they will quickly be destroyed,
Destroyed by their own wickedness.

Psalm 95 (94)

INVITATION TO WORSHIP GOD

1. Invitation to Praise God

- 1 Come, let us all rejoice in God
And shout with joy to God our rock,
To God our Savior and our shield;
2 So let us come before the Lord
And sing to him with praises due,
With songs let us rejoice in him!
- 3 The Lord is God, a mighty king,
And far above all other gods;

- 4 He holds the world within his hands,
The heights and depths are in his hands,
The lofty mountains, rivers, streams,
The deepest caverns, large and small,
The hills and valleys, all are his;
5 The dry land and the seas are his,
He made and formed them with his hands.

II. God is Lord of All the Earth

- 6 Come, let us then bow down to him,
Adore him as our Lord and God,
Bow down and kneel before the Lord;
He made us all and gave us life;
7 For he is God, our Lord and king,
And we are his own chosen flock,
His people who belong to him;
And he, our shepherd, cares for us,
In pastures green refreshes us.

III. Let Us Obey the Lord's Commands

- O that you would today give ear
And listen to his pleading voice:
8 "My people, harden not your hearts,
As once your fathers did of old,
When in the desert they rebelled
In Massa's days at Meribah,
9 They tried me and they tempted me,
They murmured and complained to me,
Though they had seen the wondrous deeds
Which I had worked in their behalf;

- 10 For forty years they wearied me;
Impatient with their ways, I said:

‘These people err in heart and mind,
And do not learn or heed my ways;

- 11 So in my wrath I therefore swore
That they would never see the land,
The land that I had promised them,
Where peace and rest they would have had.’”

Psalm 96 (95)

INVITATION TO WORSHIP GOD

I. Let Us Adore the Lord Our King

- 1 Sing a new and joyful song,
Praise the Lord in songs and hymns,
All you peoples of the earth.
- 2 Sing to him and bless his name,
His salvation loud proclaim,
Day by day proclaim his name;
- 3 Spread his name throughout the world,
Make it known in pagan lands,
Tell them of God's wondrous works.

II. The Lord is Far Above All Other Gods

- 4 God is great, a mighty Lord,
Worthy of all praise and thanks;

**Clothed in awesome majesty,
Far above all other gods.**

- 5 Pagan gods are lifeless things,
Useless works of human hands,
Powerless to speak or act;
But our God is strong and great,
He it is who gave us life,
He it is who made all things,
All the oceans, earth, and skies;**
- 6 Clothed in splendid majesty,
God displays his might and power
In his holy dwelling place.**

III. Worship God in Holiness

- 7 All you peoples of the earth,
Give due glory to the Lord,
And adore his might and power;**
- 8 Praise the glory of his name,
Offer gifts and sacrifice,
Go into his holy courts,**
- 9 Worship him in holiness,
Reverently adoring him
And with awe approaching him,
All you peoples of the earth.**
- 10 To the nations loud proclaim:
“God is Lord and king of all,
All the peoples of the earth;
He it is who made the world,
Firmly fixed it in its course
That it might not ever stray;**

Thus the Lord rules over all,
Rules with justice over all,
All the peoples of the earth.”

IV. The Lord Comes to Rule the World

- 11 Let the heavens all rejoice,
Let the earth be filled with joy;
Let the seas and oceans roar,
Let the thundering waves resound;
- 12 Let the fields and plains rejoice,
Let the grains and fruits be glad,
Let the trees and woods rejoice,
Let them all be filled with joy
At the coming of the Lord.
- 13 For he comes to rule the earth,
And with justice he will rule,
Rule with fairness and with truth
All the peoples of the earth.

Psalm 97 (96)

THE MAJESTY OF GOD OUR KING

I. The Lord Comes Forth in Majesty

- 1 The Lord is king and rules the earth;
Let all the earth rejoice in him,
Let distant shores and isles be glad.

- 2 His majesty is clothed with clouds,
With dark and misty rolling clouds,
His throne is built on solid rock,
Is built on righteousness and truth:
- 3 The lightning with its dazzling fire
Goes forth before him as he comes;
His lightning strikes his enemies
And blazes all around his foes,
Consuming and destroying them.
- 4 His lightning brightens up the skies
And all on earth are overawed,
Are filled with trembling at the sight;
- 5 The mighty mountains melt like wax
Before the presence of the Lord,
Before the ruler of the earth,
Before the Lord who made the world.
- 6 The heavens loud proclaim his might,
The glory of the Lord on earth;
The peoples see his wondrous deeds,
His justice and his righteousness.

II. The Pagan Gods Crumble Before the Lord

- 7 Now those who worship graven things,
All those who trust in lifeless gods,
Who worship senseless images
And glory in idolatry,
In gods that cannot hear or see,
That cannot speak nor move an arm,
Are shamed and filled with awe and doubt,
As all their useless silent gods

Fall down before the Lord, our God,
And crumble into lowly dust;

- 8 Mount Zion hears of this with joy,
And Juda's cities all rejoice,
Because of your just judgments, Lord;
9 For you, O Lord, the most high God,
Rule over all the earth and skies,
You far excel and are supreme,
Supreme among all other gods.

III. The Lord Rewards the Just

- 10 The Lord loves those who seek the good,
Who do not walk the ways of sin;
He guards his faithful chosen ones,
He rescues them from sinful ways
And shields them from their wicked foes.
- 11 God's holy light shines on the just:
Their souls it floods with happiness,
Their hearts it fills with peace and joy.
- 12 Rejoice, you just, in God, our Lord,
And glorify his holy name.

Psalm 98 (97)**GOD OUR RULER,
JUDGE, AND SAVIOR*****I. The Lord is Savior of the World***

- 1 O sing a new and joyful song,
A song of joy in praise of God,
For he has wrought such wondrous deeds,
His right hand and his holy arm
Have gained for him the victory;
- 2 He clearly made it known to all
That he is savior of the world;
His righteousness he has revealed
To all the nations of the world.
- 3 He has been mindful of his love,
His love for Jacob and his sons;
He has not failed in faithfulness
Toward his beloved Israel;
- 4 And all the earth has seen and heard
That he is savior of the world.

II. Sing with Joy to the Lord

- Sing joyfully to God, our Lord,
You lands and nations of the earth;
Be glad, rejoice, sing praise to God;
- 5 Sing praise to God upon the harp,
With timbrel and with psaltery;
Make music to the Lord, our God;
- 6 Bring out the trumpets and the horns,

Sing loud the praise of God, our Lord,
The praise of God, our Lord and king.

III. Rejoice in the Lord, the Just Judge

- 7 Let all the seas and oceans roar
 And all within them shout with joy,
 As wild and stormy waves resound
 And pound upon the rocky shores;
 The world and all that it contains
 And all who live upon the earth,
 Sing out with joy to God, our Lord.
- 8 Let streams and rivers clap their hands,
 Let all the mountains shout with joy,
 And join in songs of praise and thanks.
- 9 With praise go forth to meet the Lord,
 To meet the Lord who comes to rule,
 To rule the world with righteousness;
 With justice he will rule and judge
 The nations everywhere on earth.

Psalm 99 (98)

GOD THE RULER OF THE WORLD

I. Worship God in Fear and Reverence

- 1 The Lord is ruler of the world;
 Let all the peoples stand in awe
 And show the reverence due to him;
 In majesty, upon his throne,

He sits above the cherubim
Whose outspread wings surround the ark,
The ark of his own covenant;
Let all the earth bow down to him,
In fear and reverence worship him.

- 2 The Lord in splendid majesty
Within his holy temple dwells;
As sovereign Lord of all the lands
From Zion's mount he rules the world;
- 3 So let them praise your holy name,
In fear and reverence praise your name,
Your great and awe inspiring name.

II. God Rules the Earth with Justice

- 4 O God, with all your might and power,
You are a just and righteous king,
You rule the world with equity,
And have established what is right;
And your own people Israel
You judge with justice and with right.
- 5 Exalt and praise the Lord, our God,
And at his footstool worship him,
Before his presence in the ark,
The ark of his own covenant:
It is his holy dwelling place.

III. God Rewards and Punishes as Each Deserves

- 6 Now Moses, Aaron, Samuel,
Were priests who called upon his name,

They called upon the Lord, their God,
And he gave ear to all their pleas,
He heard them when they called on him.

- 7 From deep within the shining cloud
Which like a pillar guided them
Through desert wastes and wilderness,
God spoke to them and showed the way
Of his commandments and decrees;
They knew the laws they must obey,
The precepts which he gave to them.
- 8 The Lord, indeed, gave heed to them,
He heard their pleas and answered them,
In loving mercy pardoned them;
And yet he also punished them
For all their sinful words and deeds.
- 9 Exalt and praise the Lord, our God,
Bow down and praise his holy name
On Zion where his dwelling is,
Before his presence in the ark,
For holy is the Lord, our God.

Psalm 100 (99)

**GOD THE SHEPHERD
OF HIS PEOPLE**

- 1 Sing aloud to God with joy;
All you peoples, sing his praise,
- 2 Serve the Lord with joyful song,
In his presence sing with joy.
- 3 Know that he is God, the Lord,
For he made us, we are his,
We are his own people now,
He our shepherd, we his flock,
Feeding in his pastures green.
- 4 Enter now his gates with praise,
Stand within his courts and sing,
Celebrate his name with hymns,
Bless and glorify his name;
- 5 For the Lord, our God, is good,
Kind and loving is the Lord,
Just and merciful is he;
And his faithfulness endures
Through all ages evermore.

Psalm 101 (100)

THE MODEL RULER

I. The Personal Life of a Ruler

- 1 Of love and justice I will sing
In praise of you, my Lord and God;
- 2 I have resolved to keep your law
And walk the way of righteousness;
I only wait for you to come,
To guide and help me on the way,
That I may live a blameless life
Of innocence in mind and heart,
In word and deed, within my house.
- 3 I will not keep before my eyes
Unjust and evil things, O Lord;
The works of sinners I detest,
I will not join them in their sin.
- 4 I will not let my heart be set
On shameful, base, and evil deeds;
I have no wish to know these things.

II. Governing Policy of a Ruler

- 5 I will expel all slanderers
Who harm their neighbors secretly
By spreading false and vicious lies;
Nor will I long endure the proud,
Who strut about with haughty eyes,
Whose hearts are filled with vain conceit.
- 6 But I will favor all the just,
Whose life is pure and innocent,

Who live according to the law;
And I shall warmly welcome them
To serve me and to dwell with me.

- 7 However those who lie and cheat
Will never dwell within my house;
For those whose words and deeds are false
Will have no place within my sight.
- 8 I have resolved at court each day
To drive out sinners from the land;
As long as they persist in crime
No entry will be given them
Into the Lord's own citadel.

Psalm 102 (101)

IN TIME OF GREAT AFFLICTION

1. The Misery of Sin

- 2 O Lord, give ear and hear my prayer
And let my cry reach up to you;
- 3 Hide not your face from me, O Lord,
While I am in such great distress;
But turn your ear and listen, Lord,
And quickly answer when I call.
- 4 Like smoke my life is vanishing,
My days are swiftly passing by,
My bones are burning up like fire;

- 5 My heart is drying up like grass
And I forget to eat my bread,
I can no longer eat my food;
- 6 My grief and anguish is so great
I have become but skin and bones:
- 7 For I am like a desert bird
Alone amidst the wilderness;
Or like an eerie hooting owl
Perched high upon a ruined wall;
- 8 Or like a bird in sore distress
Upon the housetop all alone;
I suffer from the loss of sleep
As in my anguish I lament,
I weep and mourn and lie awake.
- 9 My foes insult me all day long,
They rage against me in their hate,
I am with sadness overcome;
- 10 The bread I eat is poor man's bread,
In smoldering ashes poorly baked;
And with my drink I mingle tears,
As they insult me all day long.
- 11 Because of your just anger, Lord,
Your indignation at my sins;
Though you had raised me up on high,
You now have justly cut me down;
- 12 Like fading shadows are my days,
Like drying grass I waste away.

II. Prayer for Restoration of Jerusalem

- 13 But you, O Lord, remain the same,

- And you abide for evermore,
From age to age your name endures.
- 14 Rise up and show your mercy, Lord,
Be merciful to Zion, Lord,
To your own people Israel:
The time for mercy has now come,
The time indeed has truly come
For mercy to your people, Lord.
- 15 We love Mount Zion's holy stones
With which the temple had been built,
And we are troubled at the sight
Of all the ruins round about,
The ruins of your temple, Lord.
- 16 The nations shall be filled with fear
And they will praise your holy name;
The kings of all the earth will come
To worship you with reverence, Lord,
And praise the glory of your name.
- 17 And this some day will all take place
When once the Lord his mercy shows
And Zion is restored anew,
So that the Lord may once again
Appear in all his glory bright;
- 18 When he shall heed his people's prayer,
The prayer of his needy ones,
And no more close his ear to them.
- 19 So let these things be written down
For future ages to recall,
That all the peoples yet unborn
May sing the praises of the Lord;

- 20 For from his dwelling place on high
The Lord will then have turned his eyes
From heaven to the earth below;
21 He will have heard the plaintive groans
Of those in long captivity,
That he might soon deliver them
Who were already doomed to death.
- 22 The name of God will then be praised,
On Zion's mount will be proclaimed,
And in Jerusalem be praised,
23 When all the nations gather there,
When kingdoms all assemble there
To serve the Lord and worship him.

III. Prayer for a Long Life

- 24 The Lord has broken all my strength
And I have grown weak and frail;
My days on earth are shortened now
And I shall soon depart from here
Unless the Lord will hear my plea.
- 25 I therefore beg the Lord our God:
“O Lord my God, forsake me not
And do not call me at this time,
For I am in the midst of years;
But give me length of days, O Lord,
Since you yourself live on and on
From age to age for evermore;
You live for all eternity.
- 26 “And it was you who made the earth,

- You made the heavens and the skies,
They are the work of your own hands;
27 Though all should pass away in time,
Yet you alone will still endure;
Though things grow old and disappear,
And like a garment soon wear out,
Though all should vanish from our sight,
28 Yet you alone remain unchanged,
And you alone remain the same;
From age to age you will endure,
You live for all eternity.
- 29 “So may your servant’s children, Lord,
Untroubled dwell upon the land,
Upon the land you gave them, Lord;
And may their offspring long endure
And find their dwelling place with you.”

Psalm 103 (102)

THE MERCY OF GOD

I. Praise God for His Great Mercy

- 1 O praise and bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all my being bless the Lord,
And praise and bless his holy name!
- 2 O praise and bless the Lord, my soul!
Be not unmindful of his gifts
And all that he has done for you:

- 3 He pardoned all your evil deeds,
He healed your ills and weaknesses,
4 From violent death he saved your life;
He crowned you with his love and grace,
And with his mercy covered you,
With great compassion raised you up;
5 He filled your life with all good things
And as the eagle keeps its youth
So God through love renews your youth
And through his mercy keeps you young.

II. Praise God for His Wondrous Works

- 6 The Lord is just and merciful
And all his deeds are right and just,
He takes the side of the oppressed;
7 To Moses he revealed his ways;
And to the sons of Israel
He showed his greatness and his might
By favoring them with wondrous deeds.
8 The Lord is kind and merciful,
Is slow to anger, full of love,
9 He does not constantly rebuke
And chide us for our evil deeds;
Nor does his anger long endure;
10 He does not always punish us
Nor deal with us as we deserve,
According to our evil deeds.

III. God's Mercy Never Fails

- 11 As boundless as the skies above,
So is his mercy and his love
For those who fear and reverence him.

- 12 As far apart as east and west,
So far does he remove our sins;
He takes them all away from us,
He blots them out for evermore;
- 13 And as a loving father would
He has compassion on his own,
Upon his children Israel,
On those who fear and reverence him;
- 14 He knows the creatures that we are,
He knows that we are only dust,
And that to dust we shall return.
- 15 Our days on earth are like the grass:
Like flowers of the field we bloom
Then barely has the wind swept by
And we are gone for evermore;
Forgotten is our place on earth.
- 17 The love and mercy of the Lord
Endures for all eternity
Toward those who fear and reverence him:
And toward their offspring through the years
He will be just and merciful,
- 18 Toward those who keep his covenant
And walk the ways of his commands.

IV. Let All Creation Praise the Lord

- 19 The Lord has firmly fixed his throne
And placed it high on heaven's heights
Where he now rules the earth and skies,
The world and all that it contains.
- 20 O all you angels, bless the Lord,
You mighty spirits, bless the Lord,

- As you obey and do his will
And carry out the Lord's commands.
- 21 O all you spirits, bless the Lord,
Who do his will as messengers,
As ministers of God on high.
- 22 O bless the Lord, you works of God,
In every part of his domain,
In every place where God now reigns;
So praise and bless the Lord, my soul,
O praise and bless his holy name.

Psalm 104 (103)

GOD THE CREATOR AND PROVIDER

I. The Heavenly Grandeur of God

- 1 My soul, give praise and bless the Lord!
How great indeed you are, O Lord:
In majesty and beauty robed
- 2 And clothed with light as with a cloak;
The skies you spread out like a tent:
And high above the watery clouds
- 3 You built your heavenly mansions there;
The clouds you made your chariot,
You ride upon the wings of wind;
- 4 You made the winds your messengers;
And lightning flashes, blazing white,
You made them servants of your will.

II. Creator of Earth, Seas, Mountains, Valleys

- 5 You fixed the earth upon its base,
You made it firm for evermore;
- 6 With waters then you covered it
And wrapped it up as with a cloak;
The waters still were high above
The mountains and the hills beneath,
Beneath the surface of the seas.
- 7 At your command the waters fled,
For when they heard your thunder crash
The waters trembled, quickly fled;
- 8 The mountains rose above the seas,
The torrents down the mountains flowed,
And valleys sank into the place
Which you already had prepared
And which you had assigned for them,
Where lakes and rivers found their place;
- 9 You fixed their bounds outside of which
They dare not cross nor pass beyond,
That they may never flood the earth,
May never flood the earth again.

III. Creator of All Living Things

- 10 At your command the gushing streams
Flow swiftly down the mountain sides
Until they reach the valley floors,
To form your lakes and rivers, Lord;
- 11 They furnish cool, refreshing drink
To all the creatures of the earth,
To all the cattle of the fields,
To all the beasts that freely roam

- In forests, plains, and mountain sides,
That all may satisfy their thirst;
12 The birds live in the trees nearby
And perched atop the tallest trees
Amidst the foliage sing their songs,
They chirp and sing their songs of joy.
13 And from your upper mansions, Lord,
Above the watery clouds on high,
You water all the hills and fields;
The earth brings forth abundant fruit,
The work of your own hands, O Lord:
14 For cattle you make grass to grow,
For us you bring forth fruits and grains,
You bring forth luscious grapes for wine
15 That wine may fill our hearts with joy;
And olives from which oil is pressed
That makes our faces clear and bright;
And grain from which we make our bread
That it may keep us strong of heart.
- 16 The trees which you had planted, Lord,
In Lebanon are watered well,
Their branches green and spread out wide,
17 The birds have built their nests in them,
And fir trees are the homes of storks.
18 Amidst the mountain crags and caves,
The wandering goats find refuge, Lord;
The badgers scurry to and fro
And find their homes among the rocks.

IV. Creator of Sun, Moon, Stars, Planets

- 19 You made the moon that it might mark
The seasons as they come and go;

You fixed the sun upon its course,
That it might know when it should set,
And know when it should rise again.

- 20 And when you bring the darkness on
The night begins with all its sounds,
The creatures in the forest stir,
They roam about the woods for food:
21 Young lions roar in search of prey;
They seek their food from you, O Lord;
22 And when the morning sun comes up
They seek their dens and go to sleep:
23 Then we ourselves go forth to work,
To toil and labor until night.

V. Creator of All That Moves in the Seas

- 24 How wondrous are your works, O Lord,
How great and many are your works;
You made all things with greatest skill,
With wisdom you created them;
The earth is full of all your works,
Of all your creatures, great and small.
25 Behold the wide and open seas,
The mighty ocean's vast expanse,
Where countless creatures freely move,
Both great and small they swim and play;
26 The ships sail far across the seas
While monsters swim the depths below;
They play and swim with greatest ease
By instincts which you gave to them
Through your creative hand, O Lord.

VI. All Life Comes from God

- 27 O Lord, all creatures look to you,
Depend on you for food, O Lord,
Which in due season you provide;
- 28 They gather up with care and skill
Whatever you provide for them;
And when you open up your hand
You fill them, Lord, with all good things.
- 29 When you withdraw your face, O Lord,
They are dismayed and terrified;
And when you take their breath away
They die and soon return to dust.
- 30 When you send forth your spirit, Lord,
New life and being seizes them,
A new creation they become,
And all the earth will be renewed
By your creative love, O Lord.

VII. God is Lord of All Creation

- 31 Now may the Lord be glorified,
Be glorified for evermore,
May he rejoice in all his works.
- 32 If he but glance upon the earth,
The earth will tremble, quake with fear;
If he but touch the mountain tops,
They quickly pour out smoke and fire.
- 33 I will then sing unto the Lord

- And I will sing his praises due
As long as I have life and strength;
34 And may my words be pleasing, Lord,
Be pleasing and acceptable:
I find my only joy in you.
- 35 May sinners not survive, O Lord,
And may they vanish from the earth,
That wickedness may disappear;
My soul, give praise and bless the Lord!

Psalm 105 (104)

THE GOODNESS OF GOD

1. Invitation to Praise God for His Goodness

- 1 Give thanks to God, proclaim his name
And tell the nations of his deeds;
- 2 O sing to him, sing psalms to him
And tell of all his mighty works;
- 3 Give glory to his holy name
And let the hearts of those rejoice
Who seek the Lord and praise his name;
- 4 O seek the Lord, be strong in faith
And seek his face for evermore:
His presence in the temple seek,
- 5 Remember all his wondrous works,
The works that he has wrought for us,
The judgments that he has pronounced with
mercy and with equity.

- 6 Note well, you sons of Abraham,
The favored servant of the Lord;
You chosen ones of Jacob's tribe:
7 The Lord himself is our own God,
His judgments govern all the world.

II. God Does Not Forget His Promises

- 8 The Lord does not forget his words,
Does not forget his covenant;
And he will keep his promises
From age to age, for evermore:
9 His covenant with Abraham,
The oath which he to Isaac swore,
10 The pledge which he again confirmed,
An everlasting covenant
With Jacob and with Israel;
11 For he had pledged his word to them:
"I give you Canaan for your lot,
As your allotted heritage,
Your heritage for evermore."

III. God Protects His Chosen People

- 12 They still were few in numbers yet
And there were still so few of them
That they were strangers in the land;
13 They wandered round from place to place,
Among the pagan nations roamed,
In kingdom after kingdom dwelt,
They met with peoples and their kings;
14 But neither kings nor princes dared
To trouble or to harass them

- Or to oppress his chosen ones,
For God had sternly warned the kings:
15 “Touch not my own anointed ones,
And to my prophets do no harm;
Let harm be never done to them,
And let them never be oppressed.”

IV. God Protects Joseph in Egypt

- 16 There was the time when God's own word
Called down a famine on the land,
When Israel's crops of grain had failed
And soon they had no bread to eat,
The staff of life had been destroyed.

- 17 But God had long before this known
What sufferings they would undergo,
And that some day they would be forced
To buy their grain from Egypt's stores
Where Joseph had preceded them:

- For Joseph's brothers in their hate
Had sold him into slavery,
Thus into Egypt he was brought
To serve Egyptians as a slave:
But soon he was accused of crime,
A crime in which he had no part:
18 They locked him in a dungeon cell,
His feet with iron shackles bound,
And iron chains around his neck;
19 But Joseph wisely prophecied
As he explained two courtiers' dreams,

Which turned out as he said they would,
And thus the Lord approved of him;

The king then had two different dreams,
And no one in all Egypt knew
What meaning they should have for him;
But Joseph, called upon to speak,
Set forth the meaning of the dreams;
Thus God again approved of him;

- 20 The king released him from his chains,
The pharaoh set him free again
21 And made him master of his house:
He gave him power over all
And made him ruler of the land
22 That he might govern all the land,
Instruct the princes as he pleased
And wisdom to the elders teach.

V. The Israelites Go Down to Egypt

- 23 We also now recall the time
When Israel down to Egypt went
And Jacob with his kinsmen dwelt
As strangers in the land of Ham;
24 The Israelites in numbers grew
And soon were stronger than their foes.

VI. God Calls Moses to Free His People

- 25 Egyptians were then filled with hate
Against God's people Israel;
They dealt with them deceitfully
And forced them into slavery.

- 26 To save them from this cruelty
God called his servant Moses back,
That with his brother Aaron's help
The two would represent the Lord
And help his people to escape
From cruel Egyptian slavery:
27 Through them the Lord worked wondrous
signs,
Worked wonders in the land of Ham.

VII. God Punishes the Egyptians

- 28 Despite the darkness sent by God,
When darkness covered all the land,
The pharaoh still refused to yield,
Refused to heed the word of God;

29 God turned their waters into blood
So that their fish were all destroyed;
30 And frogs invaded all the land,
Nor did they spare the palaces,
The royal chambers of the kings:
31 God spoke again and swarms of flies
And gnats came over all the land;
32 He sent them hail instead of rain;
Then fires raged and scorched the land,
33 Their vines and fig trees he destroyed,
He killed off all their shrubs and trees.

34 Again God spoke and locusts came,
In countless swarms the locusts came:
35 They ate up all the grass and herbs,
Devoured all the fruits and leaves;

- 36 He then slew Egypt's first-born sons,
The hope of Egypt's future strength.
- 37 And thus he freed his chosen ones
From cruel Egyptian slavery;
Egyptians gave them gifts of gold,
And gifts of silver, clothing too;
The tribes then hurried to escape
And not one Israelite held back;
- 38 All Egypt was defeated now:
They feared the strength of Israel
And all were glad to see them leave.

VIII. The Israelites Leave Egypt

- 39 God spread a cloud of light by day,
A fiery pillar for the night,
To lead them through the wilderness.
- 40 They looked to God for food and drink,
He sent them quail across the sea,
He sent them manna from the skies;
They had their fill of meat and bread.
- 41 He split the rock and water came,
It flowed along the desert floor
To quench and satisfy their thirst;
- 42 For God was mindful of his word,
Was mindful of his covenant,
Which he had sworn to Abraham.
- 43 He brought his people forth with joy,
His chosen ones with gladness came.

IX. God Leads His People Back to Canaan

- 44 He brought them to the promised land;
The land of Canaan now was theirs,
They reaped the fruit of others' toil,
45 That they might worship God in peace
And keep his statutes and decrees,
Obeying him and praising him. Alleluia.

Psalm 106 (105)**REFLECTIONS ON INGRATITUDE****A. The Mercy and Power of God**

- 1 Give praise to God for he is good,
His love endures for evermore;
2 But who is able to recount
The mighty deeds and works of God?
Or sing the praises due to him?
3 O blessed are they who keep his laws,
Who at all times do what is right.
4 Remember me, O Lord, my God,
Remember me and visit me
And bring your saving help to me,
For you do not refuse to show
Your love and mercy to your own;
5 May I thus share the happiness
Of your own chosen people, Lord,

And may I have the joy to see
The favor of your mercy, Lord,
That I may glory in your name
Together with your people, Lord.

B. Israel's Eight Rebellions Against God

I. They Murmured at the Red Sea

- 6 We now confess that we have sinned,
And as our fathers so we too
Have sinned against you, Lord our God.
- 7 Our fathers when in Egypt failed
To heed the wondrous works you wrought,
And they forgot your boundless love,
The many favors of your love,
For at the Red Sea they rebelled
Against you, Lord, the most high God,
When pharaoh and his men pursued
And threatened to destroy them, Lord.
- 8 And yet you saved and pardoned them,
For your name's sake you rescued them
To show your mighty power, Lord.
- 9 The Red Sea waters you rebuked,
The parting waters disappeared;
You led them dry-shod through the deep,
As through a desert wilderness;
- 10 You saved them from the hands of those
Who hated them and sought their lives;
You saved them from the hands of foes;

- 11 The pharaoh's soldiers all were drowned,
Not one of them escaped alive;
12 Then Israel believed your words
And sang your praise and glory, Lord.

II. They Craved for Egypt's Fleshpots

- 13 But soon they all forgot your works,
The wondrous deeds you wrought for them,
They did not trust your wisdom, Lord,
They lost their patience and rebelled;
14 They craved for Egypt's food again
And in the desert tempted you;
15 You therefore granted their request
And sent them quails across the sea;
With greed they hoarded up the quail,
But then disease afflicted them,
A plague came down upon their camp
And death became their punishment
For doubting your great wisdom, Lord.

III. They Rebelled Against Moses and Aaron

- 16 Rebellion broke out in the camp
When Korah and his rebel band
With Dathan's and Abiram's bands,
Their hearts with hateful envy filled,
Revolted with their followers
Against your holy servants, Lord,
Rejecting Aaron's role as priest,
Defying Moses to his face;
17 The earth split open wide and deep
And swallowed up the rebel bands;

- 18 And fiery flames leaped up on high,
Destroying those who had rebelled,
Abiram, Dathan, Korah too,
Together with their followers.

IV. They Worshipped a Golden Calf

- 19 When Moses failed to reappear
As quickly as they hoped he would
From Sinai's top, where he received
The tablets of the laws of God,
They lost their patience once again
And made an image of a calf,
A golden calf which they adored
At Horeb's mount where they were camped.
- 20 The glory which belongs to God
They now bestowed upon a calf,
Upon the likeness of a bull
Which they had fashioned out of gold,
A lifeless idol they adored,
- 21 Forgetting God who rescued them,
Who wrought such mighty deeds for them,
- 22 Such wonders in the land of Ham,
Such awesome signs and prodigies,
When through the Red Sea they had passed;
He saved them from Egyptian rule,
From cruel Egyptian slavery.
- 23 God might have well destroyed them all
Had not his servant Moses prayed
And interceded for them all,
That God should turn away his wrath

And not destroy his chosen ones,
But in his mercy pardon them.

V. They Rejected the Promised Land

- 24 They even scorned the promised land
Which God had promised they would have;
They had no faith in God's own word;
25 They grumbled daily in their tents
And would not heed the voice of God;
26 The Lord then lifted up his hand
And swore that he would strike them down
And in the desert let them die;
27 Their offspring he would scatter wide,
Among the nations scatter them,
Disperse them over many lands.

VI. They Offered Pagan Sacrifices

- 28 They joined with those who worshipped Baal,
To Baal-Peor they sacrificed,
They ate the sacrificial food
Of dead and lifeless pagan gods;
29 They angered God by evil deeds
And thus a plague came down on them
30 But Phinehas rose in judgment then
And stopped them in their evil ways;
The plague was checked and spread no more;
31 And Phinehas has been honored since
For his heroic, noble deed,
For ages he will honored be.

VII. They Murmured at the Waters of Meribah

- 32 They angered Moses, vexing him,
Inciting him at Meribah
To doubt the power of the Lord
To bring forth water from the rock;
33 Then Moses spoke with bitterness
And uttered rash and angry words.

VIII. They Practiced Idolatry in Canaan

- 34 The Israelites did not destroy,
Did not strike down the Canaanites,
The pagans in the promised land,
As God had ordered them to do
Because of their idolatry.
- 35 They did not listen to the Lord
But mingled freely with their foes
And learned their pagan practices;
36 They joined them in their pagan rites,
They worshipped Canaan's gods with them,
And this became a snare for them:
37 They soon began to sacrifice
Their sons and daughters to the gods,
To evil demons offered them;
- 38 Without remorse they shed the blood
Of children young and innocent;
Their daughters and their sons they slew
And offered them to Canaan's gods,
To lifeless gods of stone and wood;
The land was all defiled with blood

- 39 And they themselves became defiled
By all their rank idolatry;
They turned away from God, their Lord.

C. God's Punishment Followed by Mercy

- 40 The Lord became enraged at them,
Was angry at his chosen ones,
Against his own inheritance,
Because of their unfaithfulness.
- 41 He gave them over to their foes;
The Canaanites who hated them
Now had dominion over them;
- 42 The Canaanites afflicted them,
Oppressed and overwhelmed them,
With heavy hand ruled over them;
- 43 Though many times God rescued them
They still refused to heed his voice,
They still defined the will of God
And brought his anger down on them;
And they began to waste away
Because of all their wickedness;
- 44 But God had deep concern for them,
Had deep regard for their distress;
He saw their plight and pitied them,
He heard them plead and beg for help
When they at length cried out to him.
- 45 Thus for their sake he rescued them;
He still remembered and recalled
The covenant he made with them;

- Thus God repented of his wrath
Because of his great love for them.
- 46 God changed the hearts of all their foes:
All those who once afflicted them
And ruled them with a heavy hand
Were moved to show them mercy now
And free them from their great distress.
- 47 O come and save us, Lord, our God,
And let us no more be dispersed;
Deliver us from pagan rule
And gather us together, Lord,
That we may bless your holy name
And always glory in your praise,
As your own chosen people, Lord.
- 48 Blessed be the God of Israel,
The Lord, our God, for evermore,
Let all the people say: Amen! Alleluia.

BOOK FIVE

Psalms 107 (106) - 150

Psalm 107 (106)

THANKSGIVING FOR DELIVERANCE FROM CAPTIVITY

- 1 Give thanks to God for he is good,
His love endures for evermore;
- 2 Let all those sing the praise of God
Who have been freed and saved by him
And rescued from captivity:
- 3 He gathered them from all the lands,
From east and west, from north and south,
And to their homeland led them back.

A. God Frees Israel from Four Dangers

1. God Protected Them in the Desert

- 4 They wandered through a wilderness,
Through trackless wastes of desert land:
They could not find a dwelling place
Where they might live a peaceful life;
- 5 They suffered hunger, thirst, and heat,
They slowly weakened day by day,
Made helpless by their loss of strength.

- 6 They cried to God in their distress,
They called upon the Lord for help,
And he responded to their call:
He freed them from their misery,
From all their troubles rescued them;
- 7 He guided them upon the way
That led to where their city lay,
Which they again could call their home
And make it their own dwelling place.
- 8 So let them now give thanks to God
For all his mercy shown to them
And for the wondrous deeds he wrought
In favor of his chosen ones,
Of his own children Israel.
- 9 He comforted the famished souls:
The hungry, starving souls he fed
And gave them all good things to eat.

II. God Freed Them from Captivity

- 10 They sat in darkness and in gloom
Like captive prisoners bound in chains,
In chains of want and misery;
- 11 They had rebelled against the Lord,
They had not listened to his voice,
They had rejected and despised
The Lord's own guidance from on high.
- 12 He then saw fit to humble them:
He filled their hearts with misery;
They lost their strength and grew so weak

That they could hardly walk around,
They stumbled on with faltering steps,
They often fell upon the ground,
But there was none to lift them up.

- 13 They cried to God in their distress,
They called upon the Lord for help,
And he responded to their call:
He freed them from their misery
And from their troubles rescued them;
- 14 The gloom and darkness he removed,
He broke the chains which held them tight,
The chains of want and misery.
- 15 So let them now give thanks to God
For all his mercy shown to them
And for the wondrous works he wrought
In favor of his chosen ones,
Of his own children Israel.
- 16 For he has broken down the gates,
Has battered down the gates of bronze,
And cut away the iron bars
That kept them bound in slavery.

III. God Restored the Sick to Health

- 17 Because of all their wickedness,
They suffered for their sinful deeds:
Disease and sickness weakened them,
Their souls were filled with misery;
- 18 They could not bear to eat their food,
And soon were at the gates of death.

- 19 They cried to God in their distress,
They called upon the Lord for help,
And he responded to their call;
He freed them from their misery,
And from their troubles rescued them.
- 20 He sent his word to heal them all
And saved them from the threat of death.
- 21 So let them now give thanks to God
For all his mercy shown to them
And for the wondrous deeds he wrought
In favor of his chosen ones,
Of his own children Israel.
- 22 And let them offer sacrifice,
A sacrifice of praise to God,
And joyfully declare his works,
Rejoicing in his wondrous deeds.

IV. God Saved Them from Storms at Sea

- 23 Now those who sailed in merchant ships,
Who sailed across the ocean depths
To ply their trade in distant lands,
- 24 Know well the wonders of the deep,
For they have seen the works of God.
- 25 God merely spoke and at his word
A wild and stormy wind blew up,
It lifted high the angry waves,
- 26 Which mounted high into the skies
And then went down into the depths;

- At this the sailors' courage failed
Amidst the dangers threatening them,
Their hearts were filled with fear and dread,
27 They reeled and staggered round and round,
Like drunken men they leaned and swayed,
And all their skill was swallowed up,
They knew not what to do or say.
- 28 They cried to God in their distress,
They called upon the Lord for help,
And he responded to their call:
He freed them from their misery,
And from their troubles rescued them.
- 29 The Lord becalmed the stormy seas,
He calmed the winds and soothed the waves,
The winds became a gentle breeze,
The angry waves were still and calm;
30 And all the sailors then rejoiced
That God had stilled the roaring waves,
And brought them safely into port,
Which they so eagerly had sought.
- 31 So let them now give thanks to God
For all his mercy shown to them
And for the wondrous deeds he wrought
In favor of his chosen ones,
Of his own children Israel.
- 32 And let them glorify the Lord,
And publicly proclaim his name,
Proclaim and praise his name to all,

To all the people gathered round,
To all the elders praise his name.

B. The Providence of God

- 33 Because of their great wickedness
And their unfaithfulness to God,
He dried up all their river beds
And changed them into desert land;
He dried up all their flowing springs
And left the ground all dried and parched;
- 34 The rich and fertile land he changed
Into a barren salty waste
Because of their great wickedness.
- 35 But then God changed the desert land
And placed in it an open lake,
Providing all the dried up land
With cool, refreshing, flowing springs;
- 36 And there he let the needy dwell,
The poor and hungry settle there,
To build a city of their own:
- 37 They planted vineyards, sowed their fields,
They planted trees, and herbs, and shrubs,
They had rich crops of grain and fruits;
- 38 God blessed them and they multiplied,
Their families grew and multiplied,
Their sheep and cattle multiplied.
- 39 But then they suffered misery
When cruel and wicked enemies

Oppressed and struck them down anew
And ruled them with an iron hand;
Their hearts were sad and sorrowful.

40 But God soon raised them up again,
For he can only have contempt
For cruel princes who oppress
The Lord's own poor and needy ones;
He makes these hateful wicked men
To wander aimlessly about
And roam through trackless desert land.

41 Then God raised up the needy ones,
He rescued them from misery,
And once again enriched their lot,
Increased their families and their flocks.

42 The just rejoice to see all this,
To see the mercy of the Lord;
But all our foes, confused and shamed,
Refuse to speak, they hold their tongue,
Nor will they in their pride admit
The mercy of the Lord, our God.

43 If you are wise you will give heed
To all these wondrous works of God,
And often ponder and recall
The loving mercy of the Lord.

Psalm 108 (107)**PRAYER FOR THE
GRACE OF VICTORY*****1. We Place our Trust in You, O Lord***

- 2 Since you have strengthened me, O Lord,
My heart is firm, and I will sing
And chant your praises with the harp.
- 3 Awake, my soul, come back to life,
Awake, my faithful harp and lyre,
And at the break of day, O Lord,
I shall then sing my thanks to you,
Your praises I shall sing at dawn;
- 4 And I will praise you far and wide,
In sight of all the peoples, Lord;
Your praises I will sing aloud
That all the nations on the earth
May know that you are Lord and God;
- 5 For your great kindness reaches out,
It reaches out beyond the skies,
It reaches up to heaven, Lord;
Your constant, steadfast faithfulness
Goes far beyond the clouds, O Lord.
- 6 Show forth your power from above,
O God, show forth your majesty,
Your glory far above the earth;
And manifest yourself as God:
May you be praised beyond the skies.

- 7 O help us with your right hand, Lord,
And hear the pleas we make to you,
That those you love and cherish, Lord,
May be delivered from their foes.

II. With God's Help We shall Conquer

- 8 The Lord, our God, has answered us,
Has spoken from his holy place:

“I now lay claim to all these lands,
And hereby make them all my own:
The land of Shechem will be mine,
Where Abraham first pitched his tent;
The land of Succoth will be mine,
Where Jacob settled down to live;

- 9 Then Gilead and Manasseh both
Will guard my lands from east to west;
My helmet will be Ephraim,
Against invaders from the north;
And Juda will my scepter hold
To rule and govern all the land.

- 10 “But Moab will be made to serve
As washbowl for the master's feet
Upon the Dead Sea's eastern shore;
And Edom will be made to clean
The sandals of the master's feet
Upon the Dead Sea's southern shore,
A conquered nation now subdued
To serve as footstool for the king;
I shall then conquer and subdue

The land of all Philistia
And make it subject to my rule.”

- 11 But who will lead and guide us, Lord,
Around the towering city walls
And help us through the guarded gates?
Or who will even show the way
To lowly Edom by the sea?
- 12 Although you cast us off, O Lord,
Will you not now go forth with us
And lead us on to victory?
- 13 O help us, Lord, against our foes,
For human help is all in vain.
- 14 With God we shall be strong and brave
For he will conquer all our foes
And strike down all our enemies.

Psalm 109 (108)

PRAYER FOR HELP AGAINST TREACHEROUS FOES

1. The Psalmist's Foes Plot Evil Against Him

- 1 O God, do not in silence hide,
And do not hide your face from me;
- 2 Be not unmoved and silent, Lord;
Give ear and hearken to my plea,

As I give praise and thanks to you,
Give praise to you in my distress:

- My foes plot cruel and wicked schemes,
With lying tongues they lash at me,
3 Their mouths pour out deceits and lies,
Their speech is full of words of hate,
They slander me without a cause;
4 I show them my good will and love,
But they reproach me all the more;
There is but one thing left for me,
To have recourse to constant prayer.
- 5 No matter how much good I do,
They pay me back with evil deeds;
No matter how much love I show,
They pay me back with hateful words;
They pay me back with curses, Lord,
And in their hatred shout at me:

. *The Psalmist's Foes Curse Him*

- 6 “May he be summoned to be tried,
And may the evil one rise up
And stand against him at his right,
As witness of his wicked life,
Accusing him of every crime;
- 7 “And when he has been tried and judged,
May he be utterly condemned,
And may his plea for clemency,
His plea for pardon not be heard;

- 8 “May all his days on earth be few,
Let someone else his office take;
- 9 May all his children orphans be,
His wife a widow, lone and poor;
- 10 And may his children beggars be,
Who wander shiftless through the streets,
Evicted from their ruined homes;
- 11 “And may his creditors not wait
Nor long delay to seize his goods;
May strangers plunder all his goods
And spoil the fruit of all his toil;
- 12 “Let kindness be denied to him,
Let pity not be felt for him;
And let his orphan children starve,
Let no one care to pity them;
- 13 Let all his offspring be destroyed
And let their names no more be known;
- 14 “And may their fathers’ sins of old,
Their evil deeds and wickedness,
Be not forgotten by the Lord;
Nor let his mother’s sinfulness
Be blotted out from memory.
- 15 So let his fathers’ wickedness
Be always in the sight of God;
But let the memory of his name
Be utterly destroyed on earth;
- 16 “For never did he kindness show
And never did he pity feel;

The poor and needy were his prey,
The brokenhearted he despised,
He persecuted them to death;

17 “He loved to curse his fellowmen:
So let his curses fall on him;
He scoffed at blessings, laughed at them,
May they then be denied to him.

18 “May all his curses cover him
And like a garment cling to him,
And may they reach into his soul
As water soaks into the ground;
And may they reach his very bones
As oil soaks into porous rock.

19 “May all his curses cling to him,
Encircling him as with a robe,
Or like a wide and folded sash
Wound many times around his waist.”

VIII. The Psalmist Pleads Innocence and Asks for Help

20 Such are the lies they tell of me
And such the curses heaped on me;
They persecute me constantly;
But these same curses will rebound
And will in turn come down on them
As punishment to fit their crimes,
As proper recompense from God,
The Lord of justice and of truth.

- 21 O Lord, my God, for your name's sake,
 Defend my cause and save me, Lord,
 And with your kindness favor me
 According to your boundless love;
- 22 For I am poor and needy, Lord,
 My heart is full of grief and woe;
- 23 And I am slowly vanishing
 Like shadows in the evening sun;
 They lengthen first, then disappear;
 Or like a locust blown about
 And carried out into the sea,
 So I am being swept away.
- 24 My knees are weak from fasting, Lord,
 I totter as I walk around;
 I have become all gaunt and thin
 And now am losing all my strength;
- 25 I have become the object, Lord,
 Of all their hate and bitter scorn;
 They look on me and wag their heads.
- 26 So help me, Lord, and rescue me
 And with your kindness favor me
 According to your boundless love.
- 27 And let them know that you are God,
 That you provide for everything,
 That all my woes are from your hand,
 That also my deliverance
 Has come from your almighty hand,
 From your great boundless love, O Lord;
- 28 Although they curse may you, Lord, bless

And send your blessings everywhere,
That all my enemies may know
Of your great boundless love, O Lord;
Let those who hate me be ashamed
But let your servants all rejoice.

- 29 Let those who speak against me, Lord,
Be covered with disgrace and shame,
And may dishonor be their cloak.
- 30 I now give praise and thanks to God,
I glory in the Lord, my God;
In sight of all who gather round
I praise the holy name of God;
- 31 For God has stood by faithfully
And saved the poor man from his woes,
From those who sought to take his life,
From wicked judges rescued him.

Psalm 110 (109)

THE MESSIAH: KING, PRIEST, AND VICTOR

1. The Messiah is King

- 1 The Lord said to my Lord and king:

“Come, take your place at my right hand
Upon the throne prepared for you,

- And I will make your enemies
To serve as footstool for your feet;
- 2 The scepter of your power will reach
Beyond Mount Zion's holy place;
And all your foes will be subdued;
They will be subject to your rule
And you will govern all the world.
- 3 "This kingly power was always yours,
This sovereignty I gave to you
When you from all eternity
Were born in radiant holiness,
When I begot you like the dew
In silence and in mystery
Before the daystar at the dawn,
The dawn of all eternity,
When all was quiet and serene.
- "The people will then come to you
To offer signs of their esteem.
To pay you homage and respect
And promise you their loyalty."

II. The Messiah is Priest and King

- 4 Now God has sworn a solemn oath
And he will not repent of it:
- "You are a priest for evermore,
A high priest like Melkizedek
Who offered only bread and wine
And who was both a king and priest;
You therefore are my people's king,

You are my people's king and priest,
Their ruler and their savior too."

III. The Messiah Conquers All His Foes

- 5 The Lord at God's right hand enthroned
Will crush the wicked pagan kings,
Will crush them in the day of wrath
When all are gathered round his throne;
- 6 And he will judge his enemies,
Will judge the nations of the world,
The nations who rejected God
And would not listen to his voice:
Their bodies he will heap up high;
And he will shatter all their heads
And scatter them throughout the land.
- 7 Thus he will conquer all his foes,
Will hardly stop to quench his thirst,
Will only pause at wayside brooks
To drink the cup of suffering,
The cup of pain and agony;
Then with new strength will lift his head
And march again to conquer more,
Much like a giant on his course
Until his victory is complete.

Psalm 111 (110)**THANKSGIVING FOR
GOD'S GOODNESS*****I. The Works of God Are Wonderful***

- 1 With all my heart I praise you, Lord,
I thank you in the sight of all,
In sight of all your chosen ones,
That they may thus be prompted, Lord,
To gather in your holy place
And there give thanks and praise to you.
- 2 The works of God are wonderful:
They offer great delight to those
Who ponder and examine them
By seeing and admiring them.
- 3 God's handiwork is marvelous
And far beyond all human praise;
His rule is just and fair to all,
Extending over all the world;
His justice lasts for evermore.
- 4 His works serve as memorials
Of all that he has done for us,
For he is kind and merciful,
Our God and Lord for evermore.

II. Praise God for His Goodness to Us

- 5 For he gave food and drink to those
Who feared and praised his holy name:

He fed them in the wilderness,
He kept his covenant with them,
The covenant he swore to them.

6 And to his people he made known
The mighty greatness of his works,
He gave them as their heritage
The land which he had promised them,
The land of pagan Canaanites.

7 The ways of God are just and true:
All truth and justice come from him;
His precepts and commands are just,
The ways of God are safe and sure.

8 His ways are worthy of our trust
For he established them in truth,
In justice and in righteousness
He made them firm for evermore.

9 He saved his people Israel
From cruel Egyptian slavery;
He swore a solemn covenant
Which he will keep for evermore;
All holy is the name of God,
Deserving of respect and awe;

10 A fear and reverence for the Lord
Will lead us on to wisdom's door;
For those who live in awe of God
And walk along the ways of God
Will have God's wisdom as their guide
To lead them safely on the way.

So may the praise of God abide
For ever and for evermore.

Psalm 112 (111)

**HAPPINESS OF THOSE WHO
FEAR THE LORD**

I. Delight in God's Commands

- 1 How happy those who fear the Lord.
 Who take delight in his commands;
- 2 Their children will be great on earth,
 And they themselves will merit praise;
- 3 The wealth and riches in their house
 They share with others lavishly
 With gracious heart and open hand;
 Their kindly generosity,
 Their spirit of munificence,
 Will long endure throughout the land.

II. The Life of the Just

- 4 Their life shines out among the just,
 A light in darkness, shining bright,
 Which drives off darkness and despair,
 For they are kind and merciful
 And gracious in their way of life.
- 5 How blessed are they who help the poor;
 They follow justice as their guide:

They lend to those who are in need,
They order all their daily life
According to the laws of God
And cling to justice and to truth.

- 6 Nor do they ever stray afar,
Departing from the way of God;
Their hearts are steadfast, firm, and true,
They put their hope and trust in God;
The thought of them will long endure,
They will be praised for evermore.
- 7 They have no fear of false reports,
No fear of evil threatening them;
Their hearts are steadfast, firm, and true,
They put their hope and trust in God;
- 8 Their hearts are firm, they do not fear.
With courage they will face their foes
Until they shame and conquer them.
- 9 They help the poor most lavishly
With gracious heart and open hand;
Their kindly generosity,
Their spirit of munificence,
Will long endure throughout the land;
Their name will highly honored be
By all who knew their charity.

III. The Life of the Wicked

- 10 The wicked, seeing all this good,
Are sorely vexed and envious:
They gnash their teeth and are consumed

With envy and with jealousy;
Their wicked plans and schemes will fail,
Their hopes will all be brought to naught
And perish in the flames of wrath.

Psalm 113 (112)

GOD'S CONCERN FOR THE POOR

I. Praise God at All Times

- 1 O praise the Lord and give him thanks,
You servants of the Lord, give thanks
And praise the holy name of God:
- 2 Blessed be the name of God, our Lord,
Blessed be his name for evermore;
- 3 From rising sun to setting sun,
From east to west, from north to south,
The holy name of God be praised.

II. The Sublime Majesty of God

- 4 The Lord rules over all the world,
He rules the nations of the earth,
His glory far exceeds all else,
Is far more splendid than the skies,
It reaches out beyond the stars.
- 5 For who is like the Lord our God?
He sits upon his throne on high

- 6 And casts his eyes with loving care
Upon the skies and earth below.

III. God's Goodness to the Poor

- 7 The poor he lifts up from the dust,
And from the dunghill lifts them up;
8 He honors them by placing them
Among the princes of the land;
9 He gives the childless wife a home,
With happy children blesses her:
Her heart is filled with joy and love,
A happy mother in her home.

Psalm 114 (113A)

THE EXODUS FROM EGYPT

- 1 When Israel and Jacob's sons
Were freed from Egypt's tyranny
And from its strange and foreign speech,
2 The house of Juda then became
The holy people of the Lord;
And Israel was called to be
The holy kingdom of the Lord.
3 The Red Sea saw God's people come
And fled to either side of them;
And when the Jordan saw them come

- Its running waters ceased to flow,
Its waters turned and fled away;
4 The mountains shook and leaped like rams;
The hills and valleys skipped like lambs.
- 5 O Red Sea, why did you take flight?
O Jordan, why did you turn back?
6 What made you, mountains, leap like rams?
What caused you, hills, to skip like lambs?
- 7 It was the presence of the Lord,
It was the sight of Jacob's God,
That made the earth and mountains shake,
That made them tremble, skip, and leap;
8 It was the presence of the Lord,
The sight of Jacob's God and Lord,
That made the waters flow from rock,
That turned the hard and stony rock
Into a fresh and flowing spring.

Psalm 115 (113B)

CONFIDENCE IN GOD THE TRUE LORD

I. God Alone Is Worthy of Praise

- 1 Not unto us, O Lord, our God,
Not unto us, but to your name
Give praise and glory evermore,

Because of your great mercy, Lord,
Your love and truth and faithfulness.

- 2 Why should the pagans always say:
“Where is their God? Where is their Lord?”
- 3 Our Lord and God in heaven dwells,
He does whatever he may will,
His might and power have no bounds.

II. Pagan Idols Are Lifeless Gods

- 4 The pagans worship lifeless gods:
Their idols are mere images
Of gold or silver, wood or stone,
The skilful work of human hands;
- 5 For they have mouths, but do not speak;
And they have eyes, but do not see;
- 6 And they have ears, but do not hear;
And with their noses cannot smell;
- 7 And they have hands, but cannot feel;
And they have feet, but cannot walk;
And with their throats they cannot speak,
No sound has ever come from them;
- 8 Now those who make these images,
And all who put their trust in them,
Will gradually become like them.

III. We Place Our Trust in the Lord Our God

- 9 The house of Israel trusts in God,
For he has helped and shielded them;

- 10 The house of Aaron trusts in God,
 For he has helped and shielded them;
- 11 All those who fear the Lord, our God,
 Will put their trust and hope in him,
 And he will be their help and shield.
- 12 The Lord remembers all his own,
 And he will bless and strengthen us;
 The house of Israel he will bless;
 The house of Aaron he will bless;
- 13 He blesses all who fear the Lord,
 Both great and small, he blesses all;
- 14 The Lord will bless you more and more,
 Will bless you and your children, too;
- 15 May you be blessed by God, our Lord,
 Who made the heavens and the earth;
- 16 The heavens are his dwelling place,
 The earth he gave to all mankind.
- 17 The dead do not give praise to God,
 Nor do they praise and thank the Lord
 Within the darkness of the grave,
 Within the silence of the tomb;
- 18 But we, the living, bless the Lord,
 We bless and praise and thank the Lord,
 For ever and for evermore.

Psalm 116A (114)**SAVED FROM DEATH*****I. Gratitude to God for His Goodness***

- 1 I love the Lord and praise his name,
For he has hearkened to my plea;
- 2 And he has turned his ear to me
Upon the day I called for help.

- 3 The bonds of death surrounded me,
Sheol was setting snares for me,
The pains of hell were threatening me,
My heart was filled with fear and dread
As anguish overwhelmed me.

- 4 I called upon the Lord for help,
I called upon his holy name:
“O come, Lord God, and save my life!”

II. Peace in the Presence of the Lord

- 5 The Lord is gracious and is just,
The Lord is kind and merciful:
- 6 He watches over all his own,
He cares for all his lowly ones;
He shelters all his faithful ones;
When I was deep in misery
He raised me up and rescued me.

- 7 My soul, may peace return to you,
For God has been so good to me:
- 8 From death he saved and rescued me;

He saved my eyes from bitter tears;
He kept my feet from evil paths,
Lest I should fall and go astray;

- 9 I shall then walk before the Lord
Among the living of the land,
And in the presence of the Lord
Shall walk upon the way of God.

Psalm 116B (115)

GRATITUDE TO GOD

- 10 I always trusted in the Lord,
But in distress I often said:
“Too great are my afflictions, Lord.”
- 11 And in my fear and dread I said:
“In no one can I place my trust
For every one is full of lies,
Or lets himself be led astray;
And none can be relied upon.”
- 12 What shall I render to the Lord,
And how can I repay the Lord
For all that he has done for me?
- 13 I will then lift the cup on high,
The saving cup of thanks and praise,
And I will call upon his name,

- 14 And I will pay my vows to God
In sight of all his chosen ones,
Before the people gathered round
And standing in his holy place.
- 15 How precious in the eyes of God,
The death of all his faithful ones.
- 16 Because I am your servant, Lord,
The child of your own servant maid,
You freed me from the bonds of sin
That held me in captivity;
- 17 My sacrifice I offer now,
A sacrifice of praise and thanks;
And I will call upon the Lord,
Will call upon his holy name;
- 18 And I will pay my vows to him,
In sight of all his chosen ones,
Before the people gathered round
And standing in his holy place;
Within your holy courts, O Lord,
The courts of your own temple, Lord,
The temple of Jerusalem.

Psalm 117 (116)**SHORT HYMN OF PRAISE**

- 1 O all you nations, praise the Lord,
And all you peoples, praise his name
And glorify the Lord, your God.
- 2 His mercy is confirmed on us
And steadfast is his love for us,
For God is faithful evermore.

Psalm 118 (117)**HYMN OF JOY
AND THANKSGIVING****A. Invitation to Praise God**

- 1 Give thanks to God for he is good,
His love is everlasting;
- 2 And let the house of Israel say:
“His love is everlasting;”
- 3 And let the house of Aaron say:
“His love is everlasting;”
- 4 Let those who fear the Lord cry out:
“His love is everlasting.”

B. Trust in God

I. The Lord Will Help Us

- 5 In my distress I called on God:
He heard my cry and rescued me;
He gave us land where we could dwell,
The promised land where we were free.
- 6 The Lord is always at my side,
The Lord is with me in distress;
He helps me and I have no fear,
So what can others do to me?
- 7 The Lord is with me at my right,
He helps me and defends my cause;
He helps me strike down all my foes
And see them conquered and ashamed.
- 8 To put one's trust and hope in God
Is better than to trust in man;
- 9 To put one's trust and hope in God
Is better than to put one's trust
In kings and princes of the land.

II. God Helps in Time of Distress

- 10 The nations all surrounded me;
I struck them down and pushed them back;
- 11 They closed me in on every side,
But in the holy name of God
I conquered them and scattered them:
- 12 Like bees they swarmed around my head
And like a blazing fire they raged,

They threatened me with death and shame;
But in the holy name of God
I conquered them and beat them down.

- 13 They pushed me back and struck at me
So that I was about to fall;
But then the Lord came to my aid:
He held me up and rescued me;
- 14 My strength and courage is the Lord,
My savior is the Lord, my God,
For he has saved and rescued me.

III. God Has Saved and Rescued Us

- 15 The joyful shouts of victory
Are heard throughout all Israel,
Their joy is great in all their tents:
For God has saved and rescued them,
Has rescued all his faithful ones.
- 16 The Lord's right hand is strong and firm,
His right hand saved and rescued me
And conquered all my wicked foes;
The Lord's right hand is strong and firm.
- 17 Because of this, I shall not die,
But live to tell of God's great help:
- 18 Though he severely punished me,
He saved me from the pain of death.

C. Rejoicing in the Temple

I. Joyful Entry into God's Temple

- 19 Lord, open up the temple gates,
Lift high the gates of holiness
That I may enter to give thanks
And praise your holy name, O Lord.
- 20 These are the gates that lead to God,
The gates through which the upright walk;
- 21 I give you thanks and praise, O Lord,
For you have heard and answered me,
For you have saved and rescued me.
- 22 The stone which was rejected once,
For builders had rejected it,
Has now become the cornerstone;
- 23 This is the work of God himself,
It is the work of God's own hand;
How great and wondrous to behold
The holy temple of the Lord;
- 24 This is the day the Lord has made:
Let all rejoice with thanks and praise;
- 25 O save us, Lord, and rescue us,
Let loud hosannas fill the air;
And bless us, Lord, with all good things.

II. Joy in the Courts of the Lord

- 26 For blessed and happy are all those
Who come into the courts of God,
Who enter in the name of God:
We bless you from the house of God.

- 27 The Lord is God and blesses us,
His holy light shines down on us;
Prepare for solemn entry now,
With fresh green boughs held in your hands,
And march into the holy place,
Into the temple of the Lord;
And gather round the altar there
To thank and praise the Lord, our God.
- 28 You are my God, I thank you now:
I give you thanks and praise your name;
- 29 Give thanks to God for he is good,
His love endures for evermore.

Psalm 119 (118)

THE LAW OF GOD

ALEPH. God's Law Leads to Happiness

- 1 How happy is the lot of those
Who live a good and upright life,
Who walk along the ways of God
According to the laws of God;
- 2 How happy is the lot of those
Who seek the Lord with all their heart,
Sincerely love the Lord their God
And faithfully observe his laws;
- 3 They keep themselves from evil deeds,
They do no wrong, but walk his ways,
They walk along the ways of God.

- 4 You have commanded us, O Lord,
To keep your precepts faithfully;
5 O that my ways may always be
According to your wise decrees;
6 For then I shall not feel ashamed
When I have kept your precepts, Lord,
And know what you commanded us;
7 But I shall praise your holy name
And give you thanks with all my heart
For having learned your precepts, Lord,
That I might walk along your ways
And faithfully observe your laws.
- 8 Your precepts I shall always keep,
But, Lord, do not abandon me,
Do not forsake your servant, Lord.

BETH. God's Law Guards Us Against Sin

- 9 O Lord, what shall I do while young
To keep my life secure from sin?
- 10 With all my heart I seek you, Lord,
And I shall learn and heed your laws,
My life shall then be free of sin:
O let me never go astray.
- 11 Your words are deep within my heart,
That I may always keep your law
And never sin against you, Lord.
- 12 May you be blessed and praised, O Lord;
Instruct me, teach me your commands,

- 13 That with my lips I may proclaim
The precepts of your mouth, O Lord;
14 For I rejoice in your decrees,
They give me greater joy and peace
Than all the riches in the world.
- 15 Your precepts I will study, Lord,
And meditate on them each day;
16 For I will take delight in them,
Will always keep them in my mind
And not forget your ways, O Lord.

GIMEL. God's Law Brings Us Great Delight

- 17 Be good to me, your servant, Lord,
That I may live and keep your words;
18 And open up my eyes, O Lord,
That I may see and take delight
In all the wonders of your law;
19 For I am but a stranger here,
A wandering pilgrim on the earth;
Do not conceal your laws from me
And do not hide your ways from me.
- 20 My soul is yearning constantly,
Is longing for your precepts, Lord;
21 The proud you have rebuked and shamed,
For they reject your laws, O Lord,
They turn away from your commands.
- 22 O free me from reproach and scorn
And save me from contempt and shame,
For I observe your precepts, Lord;

- 23 Though princes lay their snares for me
And speak against me, slander me,
Your servant keeps your laws in mind
And meditates on them each day.
- 24 Your precepts are my great delight,
They are my guides and counselors.

DALETH. God's Law Lifts Us Up

- 25 Pour down new life into my soul
For I am prostrate in the dust,
Renew me by your word, O Lord;
- 26 My plight I have confessed to you
And you have heard my plea to you:
O teach me your commandments, Lord;
- 27 Instruct me, teach me your decrees,
And I will daily meditate
Upon your wondrous works and deeds.
- 28 My soul is filled with sadness, Lord,
And tears of sorrow fill my eyes,
Uphold me by your word, O Lord.
- 29 O keep me from the ways of sin,
From error save and rescue me,
Protect me from deceitful ways,
Instruct me in your precepts, Lord;
- 30 I therefore keep your laws in mind
That I may not forget them, Lord,
For I prefer the ways of truth;
- 31 I cherish all your precepts, Lord;
I cling to them and hold them fast;
O let me not be put to shame.

- 32 I walk the way of your commands
For they bring gladness to the heart.

HE. God's Law Helps Us to Avoid Sin

- 33 Instruct me, Lord, in all your laws
That I may then more perfectly
Observe and follow your commands;
34 O give me understanding, Lord,
And teach me your decrees and laws
That I may keep them faithfully
And cherish them with all my heart.
- 35 Direct me in your ways, O Lord,
For they bring gladness to my heart;
Your precepts are my great delight;
36 O turn my heart to your commands
That I may love and cherish them
And not be moved by selfish greed,
Nor moved by sordid love for gain.
- 37 O turn my eyes away from sin,
From emptiness and vanity;
May life and strength be my reward
For keeping your commands, O Lord;
38 Fulfill the solemn promises
Which to your servant you once made,
Which you once gave to those who fear,
Who fear your holy name, O Lord;
39 O save me from reproach and shame
Which fill my heart with fear and dread;
And may your laws be my delight.

- 40 Behold, I long for your decrees,
I cherish them with all my heart;
May life and strength be my reward
According to your justice, Lord.

WAW. God's Law Gives Us Strength

- 41 O let your love and mercy, Lord,
Be my salvation and my strength
According to your promises;
42 Then I shall answer those who scorn,
Who show contempt and hate for me,
For all my hope is in your words.
43 Take not your words of truth from me
For all my hope is in your words;
I trust in your decrees, O Lord;
44 And I shall always keep your laws
For ever and for evermore;
45 And I shall walk on freedom's path
As one who has no fear or dread;
46 And I shall freely speak of you,
Of your decrees and laws, O Lord,
To all the princes of the land,
And do so without shame or fear.
- 47 Your laws shall be my sole delight
And I shall love and cherish them;
48 And I shall raise my hands up high
To your commands and precepts, Lord,
And meditate on them each day.

ZAYIN. God's Law Consoles Us

- 49 Be mindful of your promises

- Which to your servant you once made,
By which you gave me life and hope;
50 For this is my great comfort, Lord,
In suffering and in misery,
That through your word I gain new life.
- 51 The proud have held me in contempt:
They scoffed at me, derided me;
Yet I shall not forget your law
Nor turn away from your decrees;
52 For I remember well, O Lord,
The judgments you once made of old,
The precepts which you once proclaimed,
Which gave me strength and comfort, Lord.
- 53 Yet indignation seizes me
When I see proud and wicked men
Forsake your laws and precepts, Lord;
54 Your laws have therefore been the theme
Of all my songs and hymns, O Lord,
When in your holy courts I stand,
A pilgrim in your temple, Lord.
- 55 And through the night I think of you,
I keep your name in mind, O Lord,
I love and cherish all your laws;
56 Your laws have brought me comfort, Lord,
Because I have not turned from them,
But have observed them faithfully.

HETH. God's Law Calls for Faithfulness

- 57 As I have often said before,

- My great delight is in your law,
To keep your words and follow them;
58 With all my heart I beg of you,
Have mercy on your servant, Lord,
According to your promises.
- 59 When I examined all my ways
I then resolved to turn to you
And walk along your ways, O Lord,
The ways of your decrees and laws;
60 I hastened and did not delay
To keep your words and precepts, Lord.
- 61 The snares and nets of wicked men
Have often held me tightly bound,
But I have kept your statutes, Lord;
62 At midnight I arise and pray,
I offer you my praise and thanks
For all your laws and just decrees;
63 I am the friend of all, O Lord,
Who fear you and observe your laws.
- 64 Your goodness fills the earth, O Lord,
We see your goodness everywhere;
Instruct me in your wise decrees.

TETH. God's Law Reflects His Goodness

- 65 Deal kindly with your servant, Lord,
According to your word and law;
66 O share with me your wisdom, Lord,
Instruct me in your wise decrees;
I put my trust in your commands.

- 67 Before I was afflicted, Lord,
And you had not yet humbled me,
And you had not yet punished me,
I strayed and did not walk your way;
But now I keep your precepts, Lord;
- 68 O Lord, your goodness is so great
That all your works are good and great;
Instruct me in your wise decrees.
- 69 The proud and haughty slander me,
But I continue to observe
And keep your laws with all my heart;
- 70 Their minds are dulled, their hearts are closed
They lack all human sympathy;
But your commands are my delight.
- 71 It was however good for me
That you saw fit to humble me,
That you saw fit to punish me,
For thus I learned to love your laws;
- 72 Your teachings are more precious than
A thousand gold and silver coins;
They give me greater joy and peace
Than all the riches in the world.

YODH. God's Law is Just

- 73 Your hands have made and fashioned me;
O give me understanding, Lord,
That I may know your wise decrees,
That I may follow your commands.
- 74 Your faithful ones who fear you, Lord,

Shall see me and shall then be glad
Because I trusted in your word.

- 75 I know your law is wise and just,
And therefore, when you humbled me,
You did this out of love for me
According to your justice, Lord;
- 76 So let your mercy be at hand
To comfort me and raise me up,
According to your promises
Which you once gave your servant, Lord:
- 77 And let your tender mercies, Lord,
Come down on me that I may live,
For your commands are my delight.
- 78 And let the haughty be ashamed,
For they have only scorn for me,
They slander me unjustly, Lord,
Afflicting me in every way;
But I shall ponder your decrees
And meditate upon your laws.
- 79 Let those who fear and love you, Lord,
Who keep your precepts, turn to me;
May they be glad on seeing me;
- 80 So let me cling with all my heart
To your decrees and precepts, Lord,
That I may not be put to shame.

KAPH. God's Law is True

- 81 My soul is yearning for your help,
Is longing for your precepts, Lord;
I put my hope and trust in you;

- 82 My soul is faint, my eyes are dim,
As I keep longing for your word
And waiting for your promised help;
When will you come to comfort me?
- 83 For I am dried and shriveled up
Like wine-skins brittle from the heat,
All dark and dry from heat and smoke;
But I have not forgotten you;
Your precepts I have kept, O Lord.
- 84 How many are my days, O Lord?
How long yet will I be oppressed?
When will you pass your judgment, Lord,
On those who scorn and slander me,
Oppressing and afflicting me?
- 85 The proud have dug deep pits for me,
They scorn and disobey your laws,
- 86 Your precepts which are firm and true;
My foes unjustly seek my life;
O help me, Lord, and rescue me;
- 87 They all but took my life away,
But I have not forgotten you
Have not forsaken your decrees.
- 88 In your kind mercy let me live
That I may keep your laws, O Lord.

LAMED. God's Law is Eternal and Unchangeable

- 89 Your word is firm in heaven, Lord,
It lasts for all eternity;
- 90 Your faithfulness will long endure,

- Your truth will last from age to age,
As once you made and fixed the earth
It still continues in its course;
- 91 For governed by your wise decrees
The universe must keep your laws,
As all of us are subject, Lord,
To serve you and to do your will.
- 92 Had not your law been my delight,
I should have perished long ago
From suffering and from misery, Lord;
- 93 Your precepts I shall not forget,
But I shall keep them in my heart,
Because through them you give me light.
- 94 O Lord, I am completely yours;
Come to my aid and rescue me
For I have followed your decrees;
- 95 The wicked lie in wait for me,
They seek to take my life, O Lord;
But I have studied your commands
And gain new strength by keeping them.
- 96 I see that all things have an end,
That nothing in this world can be
As perfect as it ought to be;
And only your decrees, O Lord,
Are boundless and eternal, Lord.

MEM. God's Law is Wise

- 97 I love your law above all else,
I ponder on it all day long.

- 98 Your law has taught me wisdom, Lord,
And made me wiser than my foes;
Your law is always in my mind
And I do not forget it, Lord.
- 99 Your law has taught me prudence, Lord:
This gives me much more insight now
And better understanding, Lord,
Than all my teachers could impart.
- 100 Your law, in wisdom unsurpassed,
Has helped me understand far more
Than all the lore of ancient times,
For I observe your precepts, Lord.
- 101 Your law has taught me wise restraint
And kept my feet from evil ways
That I might walk your ways, O Lord,
And carry out your wise commands.
- 102 I do not stray from your decrees,
For it was you who taught me, Lord;
- 103 How sweet your words are to my tongue.
Much sweeter than the honeycomb,
Than honey in my mouth, O Lord.
- 104 Through your decrees I understand,
And they have taught me wisdom, Lord;
I therefore hate iniquity
And every kind of sin and crime.

NUN. God's Law is Our Guide

- 105 Your word is like a shining light,

A lamp to guide my feet aright,
To light the path that leads to you.

- 106 I vowed to keep your just decrees,
And have resolved to keep my vow;
107 But I am greatly troubled, Lord,
My heart is filled with fear and dread;
O give me strength and let me live
According to your word, O Lord;
108 Accept my praise and thanks, O Lord,
The offerings of my voice and tongue,
And teach me your decrees and laws.
- 109 My foes have daily threatened me
Because I keep your law, O Lord;
My life is daily in my hands,
But I would rather risk my life
Than be unmindful of your law;
110 Though sinners lay their snares for me
I do not stray from your decrees.
- 111 Your precepts are my heritage,
My heritage for evermore,
Because they are my great delight,
My heart's great pride and joy, O Lord;
112 I have resolved with all my heart
To carry out your precepts, Lord,
With greatest care for evermore.

SAMEKH. Loyalty to God's Law

- 113 I hate the double-mindedness
Of scheming and deceitful men;
Your law, O Lord, is my delight;

- 114 You are my shield and refuge, Lord,
I put my hope in your decrees;
115 You wicked ones, depart from me
And let me keep the laws of God.
- 116 Uphold me, Lord, and lift me up
According to your promises,
That I may live and serve you, Lord;
And let me never be ashamed
To place my trust and hope in you;
117 For with your help I shall be saved,
Your laws will be my great delight.
- 118 You spurn and throw aside all those
Who will not keep your precepts, Lord;
Their thoughts are vain deceits and lies;
119 For all the wicked on the earth
Are merely dross within your sight;
I therefore love your precepts, Lord;
120 I tremble, Lord, for fear of you,
And stand in awe of your decrees.

AYIN. Faithfulness to God's Law

- 121 Behold, O Lord, I keep your law,
And do what your decrees demand,
In justice and in righteousness;
O Lord, do not abandon me
Into the hands of those who seek
To crush me and oppress me, Lord.
- 122 O give me your assurance, Lord,
That you will always care for me;
Let not the proud oppress me, Lord.

- 123 My eyes are growing dim and weak
From seeking, longing for your help
And for fulfilment of your word
According to your promises,
Your justice and your righteousness.
- 124 O Lord, extend your love to me,
In your great goodness favor me
And teach me all your wise decrees;
- 125 O give me understanding, Lord,
That I may know and love your law.
- 126 The time has come for you to act,
For you to judge the proud, O Lord;
For they have broken your commands.
- 127 I love your laws and precepts, Lord,
Far more than all the finest gold;
- 128 Your precepts are my surest guide,
They lead me safely on your paths
Of goodness and of righteousness;
The ways of sinners I detest,
They only lead to sin and death.

PEH. The Wonders of God's Law

- 129 Your precepts are most wonderful,
I gladly heed and follow them:
- 130 The revelation of your word
Gives light and understanding, Lord,
To those who never heard of them.
- 131 I open up my mouth and sigh,
Because I long for your commands;

- 132 O turn to me, have mercy, Lord,
As you have always favored those
Who love and praise your holy name.
- 133 Direct my steps and guide me, Lord,
According to your word and law,
May sin not overpower me;
- 134 O save me from oppressors, Lord,
And keep the wicked far from me
That I may always keep your law.
- 135 And let your face shine brightly, Lord,
Upon your servant here on earth;
And teach me your decrees and laws.
- 136 A stream of tears flows from my eyes
Because the proud reject your law
And show contempt for your commands.

SADHE. God's Law is True and Firm

- 137 O Lord, how right and just you are,
How true your judgments and decrees;
- 138 With firmness and with righteousness
You taught us your decrees and laws.
- 139 But in my zeal for your commands,
My anger is consuming me,
Resentment fills my heart, O Lord,
Because my foes forget your words,
They pay no heed to your commands.
- 140 Your word has long been tested, Lord,
As gold is tested in the fire,

Yet finer than the purest gold;
Your servant therefore loves your word.

- 141 I may be worthless and despised,
And yet I keep your law in mind;
142 Your justice lasts forever, Lord,
Your law is firm for evermore.
143 Though I am filled with anguish, Lord,
And suffer much distress and pain,
Yet your commands are my delight.

144 The justice of your precepts, Lord,
Will never change or pass away;
O teach me, Lord, and I shall live.

QOPH. Keeping God's Law at All Times

- 145 I call on you with all my heart;
O hear me, Lord: I keep your laws;
146 I call on you: O save me, Lord,
For I will keep your just decrees;
147 I come to you at break of day,
I call on you to help me, Lord;
I place my trust in your decrees.

148 And through the watches of the night
I am awake, and meditate
Upon your words and precepts, Lord;
149 O hear my cry and heed my plea
According to your mercy, Lord;
And give me strength and life anew
According to your just decrees.

- 150 My foes, who seek to crush me, Lord,
And who unjustly threaten me,
Encircling me on every side,
Are far from your decrees and laws,
For they reject and scorn them, Lord.
- 151 Yet you are near to me, O Lord,
And I can safely trust in you,
For your decrees are firm and true.
- 152 Of old I had already known,
When you first taught me your decrees,
That you intended them to last
For ever and for evermore;
You made them firm and sure, O Lord,
And true for all eternity.

RESH. Fidelity in Time of Suffering

- 153 O Lord, give heed and set me free
From all my pain and misery;
I have not put your law aside,
But have observed it faithfully.
- 154 Defend my cause, redeem me, Lord,
And give me strength and life anew,
According to your promises;
- 155 Salvation is beyond the reach
Of those who show their proud contempt
For all your laws and wise decrees,
Who pay no heed to your commands.
- 156 And yet you have compassion, Lord:

Your boundless mercies are for those
Who keep your precepts and commands;
O give me strength and life anew
According to your wise decrees.

- 157 Although my many enemies
Continue to oppress me, Lord,
I do not swerve from your commands;
- 158 And when I see transgressors, Lord,
Who show their great contempt for you,
Who do not heed your just decrees,
It wearies me and saddens me
Because they do not keep your word.
- 159 Behold, O Lord, my love for you,
For all your precepts and commands,
O give me strength and let me live
According to your love, O Lord.
- 160 Your word is truth itself, O Lord,
Your word is everlasting truth,
And all your wise decrees and laws
Will last for all eternity.

SHIN. God's Law Brings Joy and Hope

- 161 The pagan princes of the land
Oppress me, Lord, without a cause;
But then with awe and reverence, Lord,
I ponder all your wise decrees:
- 162 They bring me all the joy of one
Who finds a store of hidden wealth.

- 163 Iniquity I hate and loathe,
And falsehood I detest and scorn,
Your word alone I cherish, Lord.
- 164 Each day I offer praise to you,
Each day I praise you seven times,
Because of your just judgments, Lord;
- 165 All those who love your just decrees
Will have much peace and joy, O Lord,
For them there are no stumbling blocks,
Nor will they fall into the traps
Which scheming foes prepare for them.
- 166 To you, O Lord, I look for help,
And therefore keep your just commands;
- 167 My soul takes heed of your commands
And greatly loves your wise decrees.
- 168 I heed your precepts and commands
And all my ways are in your sight,
My life is daily seen by you;
I cannot hide from you, O Lord.

TAW. Final Prayer for Help

- 169 O let my cry reach up to you
And give me understanding, Lord,
Instruct me in your wise decrees.
- 170 O shelter me and keep me safe,
I beg you, keep me safe from harm,
From those who seek to take my life;

I beg you, save me from my foes
According to your promises.

- 171 Let hymns of praise stream from my lips
Because you taught me your decrees;
172 And let the music of my hymns
Proclaim my thanks by praising you
Because your laws are just and true.
- 173 O keep your hand in readiness
To lift me up in my distress,
For I have always clung to you
And have observed your just decrees.
174 I beg of you to save me, Lord,
For your decrees are my delight.
- 175 By your great mercy let me live
That I may still give praise to you,
And may your precepts be my guide.
- 176 Without your help I lose my way
And blindly wander everywhere;
If like a sheep I go astray,
Come, search for me and bring me back
That I may serve you even more;
For I do not forget your laws,
Nor do I wish to go astray,
But rather live by your decrees.

Psalm 120 (119)

Gradual Psalm 1

**PRAYER AGAINST MALICIOUS
TONGUES**

I. Urgent Cry for Help

- 1 I cried to God in my distress
And he has heard my urgent plea:
- 2 “Deliver me from lying lips,
From wicked men who slander me;
O save me from deceitful tongues.”

II. Exhortation to Sinners

- 3 What profit do you sinners gain
By all your lies and vain deceits?
- 4 Do you not know that God will send
The sharpened arrows of his word,
The arrows of his mighty word,
And rain them down upon your head,
And heap upon you fiery coals,
Like hot and glowing broom wood coals?

III. Longing for Peace

- 5 O woe to me that I must dwell
Amidst such fierce and pagan tribes,
As if I were on Meschech's shores
Or lived in Kedar's desert tents.
- 6 I have already dwelt too long
With those who work iniquity,

Who hate the very thought of peace;
I long for peace with all my heart,
But when I speak and ask for peace
They want no peace but only war,
They stir up constant hate and strife.

PSALM 121 (120)

Gradual Psalm 2

GOD'S LOVING PROVIDENCE

I. God is Our Helper

- 1 I lift my eyes to Zion's hills,
And ask: where else shall I find help?
- 2 My only help is from the Lord,
Who made the heavens and the earth.

II. God is Our Provider

- 3 I trust that he will keep me safe
And will not let me slip or fall;
For he, who guards me, slumbers not;
- 4 He slumbers not, he does not sleep,
Who guards his people Israel.

III. God is Our Protector

- 5 The Lord keeps watching over you,
And at your right hand takes his stand,
He gives you shade to shelter you,
- 6 That neither heat of sun by day

Nor cold at night may bring you harm,
And may the shining moon at night,
With all its bright and shining light,
Not bring on blindness to your eyes.

IV. God is Our Defender

- 7 The Lord will watch and keep you safe,
Will keep you safe from evil ways,
Will guard your life and be your shield,
- 8 Will guard you as you come and go,
Will guard you close for evermore.

Psalm 122 (121)

Gradual Psalm 3

PEACE AND JOY IN JERUSALEM

I. Joy at the Sight of Jerusalem

- 1 I shall rejoice when once again
They call on me and say to me:
“Together let us now go up
And worship in the house of God:”
- 2 When once again, Jerusalem,
We stand within your holy courts,
Within your walls restored anew,
Your towers, ramparts, walls compact
- 3 And joined together as befits
The city of the Lord, our God.

II. Back Again in the Holy City

- 4 The tribes shall once again ascend,
The Lord's own tribes of Israel,
Ascend to Zion's mount again
To praise the holy name of God
According to the Lord's decree.
- 5 For there the judges' thrones are set,
The judgment seats of David's house,
Where king and magistrates preside
And rule the land with equity.

III. Peace and Safety in Jerusalem

- 6 O pray the Lord, our God, for peace,
That peace be in Jerusalem;
May all who love you find that peace
And be secure within your walls;
- 7 May peace be found within your walls,
And safety in your palaces;
- 8 And for the sake of Israel,
My friends and kinsmen in the Lord,
I now cry out my wish for all:
"Peace be to you, Jerusalem."
- 9 I pray for you, Jerusalem,
That all good things may come to you,
Because the temple of the Lord,
The house where God, our Lord, abides,
Belongs to you, Jerusalem,
Restored and built anew again.

Psalm 123 (122)

Gradual Psalm 4

**TRUST IN GOD IN
TIME OF AFFLICTION**

I. Servants and Handmaids of God

- 1 I raise my eyes to you, O Lord,
 To you enthroned in heaven's courts;
- 2 As servants keep their eyes intent
 Upon their masters' kindly hands,
 To whom they look for food and drink,
 To whom they look for all their needs;

Or as the handmaid keeps her eyes
Intent upon her mistress' hands,
On whom her livelihood depends,
To whom she looks for all her needs;

So we lift up our eyes to God
And keep them fastened on the Lord
That he at length will mercy show
Upon his servants here below.

II. Plea for Freedom from Oppression

- 3 Have mercy on us, Lord, we beg,
 Have mercy on your servants, Lord,
 For sinners heap disgrace on us,
 They jeer at us and slander us;
- 4 The rich have only scorn for us,
 The proud have mere contempt for us.

Psalm 124 (123)**Gradual Psalm 5****THE LORD DELIVERS HIS PEOPLE*****I. No Deliverance without God***

- 1 Had not the Lord been on our side,
The Israelites might now well say:
- 2 Had not the Lord been on our side
When evil men rose up with rage
And threatened us on every side;
- 3 They would have swallowed us alive
With all their fierce and burning wrath;
- 4 The torrent of their furious wrath
Like waters would have covered us
And dragged us down into the deep,
- 5 The seething waters drowning us,
The waters raging over us.

II. Thanks to God for Deliverance

- 6 All praise and thanks to God, our Lord,
For he has not abandoned us
And has not let them conquer us;
He has not let us be the prey,
The prey to teeth of wicked foes;
- 7 For like a bird we have escaped,
As from a fowler's snare escaped:
The snare is broken, we are saved.
- 8 Our help is in the Lord, our God,

Our hope is in the name of God,
Who made the heavens and the earth.

Psalm 125 (124)

Gradual Psalm 6

THE LORD PROTECTS ISRAEL

I. God Surrounds Us with His Care

- 1 All those who place their trust in God
Are like Mount Zion, firm and strong;
Like Zion they will long endure
And will not yield to evil ways.
- 2 As hills surround Jerusalem
So God surrounds his faithful ones,
His chosen people Israel,
Protecting them for evermore.

II. The Wicked Will Not Prevail

- 3 The Lord will not let sinners rule
Nor long endure their tyranny
By which they torture upright souls,
Lest these be lured to go astray
And walk the crooked ways of sin.

III. God Will Judge the Wicked

- 4 Pour down your blessings on the just,
Upon your good and faithful ones,
The upright and the pure of heart.

- 5 But those who spurn and hate the Lord
And walk the evil paths of sin
With those who follow crooked ways
Will all be justly judged by God.

May peace come down on Israel!

Psalm 126 (125)

Gradual Psalm 7

JOY ON RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY

1. Joy on Return from Babylon

- 1 When Zion's captives are released
From sad and gloomy Babylon;
When God leads back the Israelites
To Zion's mount, Jerusalem,
Then we shall be like dreaming men
Whose dreams have finally come true.
- 2 Our mouth with laughter shall be filled,
Our tongue with wildest joy will sing,
Our captors will then stand in awe
And nations will then loud proclaim:
"The Lord has done great things for them."
- 3 When God does such great things for us,
We shall then all rejoice and sing.

II. Sowing in Tears, Reaping with Joy

- 4 O change our lot, restore us, Lord,
As you restore the dried up streams
By sending fresh, abundant rains
Upon the deserts of the south;
- 5 Then those who sow in toil and tears
Shall gather in their crops with joy:
- 6 When going out to sow their fields,
They sadly take along the seeds,
The last few seeds that still remain,
And, weeping, spread them far and wide.
- 7 But when the crop is full and ripe
They come with hurried, measured steps,
Rejoicing as they speed along
And carry back their sheaves of grain.

Psalm 127 (126)**Gradual Psalm 8****GOD'S BLESSING IS
NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS*****I. Work without God is Vain***

- 1 Unless the Lord help build the house,
The builders work and toil in vain;
Unless the Lord keeps faithful watch,
The city's watchman guards in vain:

- 2 In vain do you rise up to work
Before the daylight has appeared;
In vain do you stay up till late;
Without the Lord you toil in vain
And sit there far into the night
That by your toil you may have bread,
That you may eat your hard earned bread;

But God's own loved ones sleep in peace;
They know that God is bountiful
To those who are his faithful ones,
And will provide for them in sleep.

II. Children Are a Blessing

- 3 Now children are a gift from God,
The womb's rich fruit which God has blessed.
- 4 Like arrows in a warrior's hand
Or in a quiver filled with them,
So are the children of one's youth:
- 5 How blessed are parents in their home
With children who will stand by them,
For they will not be put to shame:
Their children will defend their cause
When they are called before the judge
And at the city gate are tried,
Accused in public by their foes;
They calmly face their enemies:
Their children will defend their name.

Psalm 128 (127)**Gradual Psalm 9****THE JUST MAN'S
FAMILY IS BLESSED*****I. How Happy Those Who Keep God's Law***

- 1 O blessed are you who fear the Lord,
Who walk the ways marked out by God:
- 2 If by the labor of your hands
You earn your keep and eat your bread,
Then blessed and happy you will be
And all will turn out well for you;
- 3 Your wife will, like a fruitful vine
Within the chambers of your home,
Keep house and home in neat array
As she attends to household tasks;

Your happy children, young and bright,
Will be like growing olive plants
Around the family table placed.
- 4 O blessed are you who fear the Lord,
Who walk the ways marked out by God.

II. Prosperity Under God

- 5 May God send forth his blessing now
And favor you from Zion's mount,
That you may see Jerusalem

- Increase and prosper through the years,
Through all your days upon this earth;
6 May you your children's children see.

The peace of God on Israel!

Psalm 129 (128)
Gradual Psalm 10

**RECALLING PAST FAVORS
OF GOD**

I. Past Sufferings Are Recalled

- 1 The Gentiles have relentlessly
Continued to attack us, Lord;
And Israel with truth can say
They fought against us from our youth;
- 2 They never ceased to fight us, Lord,
And yet they never conquered us;
- 3 They plowed like plowmen on our backs,
They made their furrows long and deep.
- 4 But in his justice may the Lord
Cut through the cords which they have made,
With which they seek to keep us bound
And hold us as their captive slaves.

II. May Our Foes Be Put to Shame

- 5 Let all of Zion's foes retreat,

And may they all be put to shame
Who hate your people Israel.

6 And let them wither like the grass
That on the housetops quickly sprouts,
Then withers in the sun and wind
Before it can be plucked for use;

7 No reaper seeks to gather it
Nor does he bind it into sheaves,
For it is dead and worthless grass;

8 Those passing by will not see fit
To greet the reaper with these words
Of usual blessing on his work:
“May God’s own blessing be with you;
We bless you in the name of God.”

Psalm 130 (129)

Gradual Psalm 11

HOPE FOR THE SINNER

1. O God, Hear My Cry

- 1 From out the depths of sin I cry,
I call on you in my distress;
- 2 Give heed and listen to my voice,
Give ear, O Lord, and hear my prayer.

II. God Alone Can Forgive Our Sins

- 3 If you recorded all our sins
And marked them all against us, Lord,
And were not willing to forgive,
Then who could long endure such pain?
- 4 But there is pardon to be had;
With you there is forgiveness, Lord;
We therefore worship you with awe,
With loving reverence bless your name.

III. We Therefore Trust in God Alone

- 5 I place my hope in you, O Lord;
My soul trusts in your word of truth
- 6 And longs and waits for you, O Lord,
More eagerly than watchmen wait
For dawn to come at break of day.

IV. We Humbly Await God's Pardon

- 7 So Israel longs and waits for God,
More eagerly than watchmen wait
For dawn to come at break of day;
For God is merciful and kind,
Is always ready to forgive
And ready to redeem us all,
With love and mercy pardon us;
- 8 From all their sins he will redeem
His chosen people Israel.

Psalm 131 (130)**Gradual Psalm 12****PEACE OF SOUL AND
TRUST IN GOD**

- 1 O Lord, my heart is not puffed up
With haughty pride and arrogance;
Nor are my eyes raised up in scorn,
With proud disdain for others, Lord;
Nor do I blindly grasp for things
That are by far too great for me;
Nor do I seek to understand
The things that are beyond my reach.
- 2 My soul is therefore comforted
And blessed with peace and calm repose;
My soul is like a little child,
An infant in its mother's arms.
- 3 O Israel, place your hope in God,
In God, your Lord, for evermore.

Psalm 132 (131)

Gradual Psalm 13

**RENEWAL OF DAVID'S PACT
WITH GOD**

A. The Finding of the Ark

I. David's Promises to God

- 1 Remember, Lord, the eagerness
With which your servant David toiled,
The care and zeal with which he planned
To build the temple of the Lord,
Where he might safely house the Ark;
- 2 How David promised under oath
And made a vow to God, the Lord,
To Jacob's God, the Mighty One:
- 3 "I will not go into my home
Nor will I in my house abide,
I will not lie upon my bed
- 4 Nor will I give my eyes to sleep
Nor let my eyelids close in sleep
- 5 Until I find a place for you,
A fitting place for worship, Lord,
Where we might safely house the Ark;
A dwelling place for Jacob's God,
The Mighty One, the Lord, our God."

II. The Ark is Returned to Jerusalem

- 6 At Bethlehem we heard the news:
The Ark was in the fields of Jaar,

Amidst the forestland of Jaar;
And there we found the Ark secure,
Not far away from Zion's mount.

7 So let us now prepare ourselves
That when the time has come we may
Go into God's own temple there
Where God will make his dwelling place;
That we may praise and worship him,
Bow down before his footstool there,
Before the holy Ark of God.

8 Arise then, Lord, and go within,
Abide within your dwelling place
Where we shall keep the Ark secure,
The Ark of your great majesty;

9 Let all your priests put on their robes,
The sacred robes of holiness;
And let your holy ones rejoice,
With gladness let their voices ring.

10 And for your servant David's sake
Turn not away, do not hold back
The face of your anointed one.

B. Zion Is God's Dwelling Place

1. God's Promises to David

11 The Lord has promised solemnly
And sealed his promise by an oath:
He promised David by an oath
And he will never break his word:

- “The offspring of your royal race
I will establish on your throne;
12 And if your children keep my law,
If they will keep my covenant,
If they are true to my decrees,
Decrees which I shall teach to them,
Their children, too, for evermore,
Will sit upon your royal throne.”
- 13 And thus the Lord has made his choice,
Has chosen Zion's holy mount
To be his holy dwelling place:

II. God's Blessing on His People

- 14 “This is the place where I shall dwell,
On Zion's mount for evermore;
And this shall be my dwelling place,
For I have so desired it;
- 15 “With blessing I shall bless her food,
And shall provide her poor with bread.
- 16 “And I shall clothe her priests with robes,
With sacred robes of holiness;
Her holy ones shall all rejoice,
Their voices shall with gladness ring.
- 17 “And David's offspring I shall bless,
With royal power they shall rule;
And for my own anointed one
I shall prepare a lamp for him,
A light for all the world to see,
- 18 “And I shall clothe his foes with shame;
For on his head my diadem
Shall be a bright and shining crown.”

Psalm 133 (132)**Gradual Psalm 14****BROTHERLY LOVE AND UNITY**

- 1 How pleasing and how good it is
When brethren live in unity:
- 2 It is like precious perfumed oil
Which, poured on Aaron's head, flows down,
Flows gently down on Aaron's beard
To touch the collar of his robe.
- 3 Or like Mount Hermon's heavy dew
That driven by the cooling breeze
Descends upon Mount Zion's heights;

For such indeed who live in peace
The Lord will bless and give them life,
Will give them life for evermore.

Psalm 134 (133)

Gradual Psalm 15

**THE PILGRIMS' FAREWELL
PRAYER**

- 1 Now all you servants of the Lord,
You priests and Levites, bless the Lord,
As you keep vigil in the night,
The night watch in the house of God,
Within the temple's holy courts;
- 2 Lift high your hands unto the Lord,
And in his temple praise the Lord.
- 3 And may the Lord, who made all things,
Who made the heavens and the earth,
Pour out his blessings as you leave,
Bless all of you from Zion's heights.

Psalm 135 (134)

INVITATION TO PRAISE GOD

A. Praise the Lord

- 1 O praise the name of God, our Lord;
You servants of the Lord, give praise;
- 2 All you who stand within his courts,
Within his temple, praise the Lord.

- 3 O praise the Lord for he is good,
And to his holy name give praise
For this befits the Lord of love;
- 4 Now God has chosen for his own,
Has chosen Jacob for himself,
Has chosen Israel as his prize,
As his most favored heritage.

B. The Power of God

I. God Rules the Forces of Nature

- 5 Indeed, I know this as the truth:
The Lord is great and powerful,
He stands supreme above all gods;
- 6 Whatever he may will he does
In heaven and on earth below,
In open seas and ocean depths;
- 7 He brings together clouds of rain,
From all directions gathers them,
He makes the fiery lightning flash
And at the same time makes the rain;
He makes the stormy winds to blow.

II. God Overpowers the Wicked

- 8 He struck down Egypt's first-born sons,
He struck down men and beasts alike;
- 9 O Egypt, you were warned in time
By signs and wonders which he wrought
Against the pharaoh and his court.

- 10 He conquered nations, struck them down,
He slew their great and mighty kings:
11 King Sihon of the Amorites,
And Og, the king of Bashan land,
And all the kings of Canaan;
12 He made their lands the heritage
Of his own people Israel.

III. Pagan Gods Are Powerless

- 13 Your name endures for evermore,
Your name will never perish, Lord:
Through all the ages you are God:
14 For you provide for all our needs,
You shield and guard your people, Lord,
And with compassion care for them,
You care for all your servants, Lord.
- 15 The pagans worship lifeless gods:
Their idols are mere images
Of gold and silver, wood and stone,
The skilful work of human hands:
- 16 For they have mouths, but do not speak;
And they have eyes, but do not see;
17 And they have ears, but do not hear,
And in their mouths there is no breath,
No sound has ever come from them.
- 18 Now those who make these images
And all who put their trust in them
Will gradually become like them.

C. Praise the Lord

- 19 O house of Israel, praise the Lord;
O house of Aaron, praise the Lord;
20 O house of Levi, praise the Lord;
All you who fear him, praise the Lord.
- 21 The Lord be praised from Zion's heights,
Where in Jerusalem he dwells.

Psalm 136 (135)**A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING**

- 1 Give thanks to God for he is good:
His love is everlasting;
2 Give thanks and praise the God of gods:
His love is everlasting;
3 Give thanks and praise the Lord of lords:
His love is everlasting.

1. God Created the Universe

- 4 For he alone has done great things:
His love is everlasting;
5 For by his wisdom and his power
He made the heavens and the skies:
His love is everlasting;
6 He wisely spread out all the earth
And on the waters made it firm:
His love is everlasting;

- 7 He made the great lights shine above:
His love is everlasting;
8 He made the sun to rule the day:
His love is everlasting;
9 The moon and stars to rule the night:
His love is everlasting.

II. God Protects His People

- 10 He struck down Egypt's first-born sons:
His love is everlasting;
11 He freed his people Israel
From cruel Egyptian slavery:
His love is everlasting;
12 With mighty hand and arm outstretched:
His love is everlasting;
13 He made the Red Sea split in two:
His love is everlasting;
14 He guided Israel through its midst:
His love is everlasting;
15 And cast the pharaoh and his men
Into the Red Sea's watery grave:
His love is everlasting.
- 16 He led his people Israel
Through rugged, desert wilderness:
His love is everlasting;
17 He struck down great and famous kings:
His love is everlasting;
18 He struck down strong and mighty kings:
His love is everlasting;
19 King Sihon of the Amorites:
His love is everlasting;

- 20 And Og, the king of Bashan land:
His love is everlasting;
21 He made their lands a heritage:
His love is everlasting;
22 The heritage of Israel,
Of his own servant Israel:
His love is everlasting.

III. God Overpowers His People's Enemies

- 23 He helped us in our lowliness:
His love is everlasting;
24 He freed us from our enemies:
His love is everlasting.
- 25 He feeds all creatures here on earth:
His love is everlasting.
- 26 Give praise to God, the Lord of heaven:
His love is everlasting.

Psalm 137 (136)

LONGING FOR JERUSALEM

I. The Babylonian Captivity is Recalled

- 1 We sat upon the river banks,
In Babylon we sat and wept
As we recalled Mount Zion's heights,
The temple of Jerusalem.

- 2 We hung our harps upon the trees,
The aspen trees of Babylon,
3 While those who once had captured us
And taken us to Babylon
Now taunted us and jeered at us
And were requesting songs of us:
“O sing to us,” they called aloud,
“And let us hear the ancient songs
Of Zion and Jerusalem.”

II. Israel's Loyalty to Jerusalem

- 4 But how can we sing Zion's songs,
The ancient songs of God our Lord,
The sacred songs of Israel,
While we are held as captive slaves,
As exiles in a foreign land?
- 5 If I no longer think of you,
O city of Jerusalem,
If I should let the thought of you
Slip back into oblivion,
Then may my right hand lose its strength;
- 6 If I do not remember you,
O city of Jerusalem,
If I no longer value you
Above all other joys of life,
Then may my tongue be mute and still,
May it be useless in my mouth.

III. Babylon Threatened with Punishment

- 7 Remember, Lord, that day of wrath,
When you allowed her foes to seize

The city of Jerusalem,
To conquer, ruin, and destroy
The holy city where you dwelt.

Remember how the Edomites
Had urged and cried for all to hear:
“Destroy the city, raze its walls,
And let no stone remain in place.”

- 8 O Babylon, you plunderer,
You will in time yourself be struck,
You will be ruined and destroyed;
And they will be acclaimed as blessed
Who conquer you, O Babylon,
Repaying you as you deserve
And heaping evils on your head
Which you have cruelly brought on us.
- 9 And even blessed shall they be called
Who seize upon your little ones
And cast them down upon the rocks.

Psalm 138 (137)

A HYMN OF THANKSGIVING

1. Thanks to God for Help Obtained

- 1 I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
For you have listened to my plea;
I therefore sing these words of praise,
In sight of all the angels, Lord.

- 2 Adoring, I will worship you
Within your holy temple, Lord;
And I will praise your holy name
Because of your great goodness, Lord,
Because of your great faithfulness.

For you have made your name, O Lord,
Supreme above all other names,
Because of your great faithfulness,
Because you keep your promises.

- 3 Thus when I called on you, O Lord,
You listened to my urgent plea,
My strength and courage you renewed,
My soul you lifted up anew.

II. Invitation to All to Worship God

- 4 The kings of all the lands on earth
Shall praise you, Lord, when they have heard
The words of wisdom from your mouth;
5 And they shall sing and praise your words,
Shall sing of all your ways, O Lord:
“The glory of the Lord is great!”
6 The Lord indeed is truly great
And yet he cares for all the poor,
He does not disregard their need,
He does not turn away from them;
He raises up the lowly ones;
The proud he humbles and rejects,
He knows them only from afar.

III. Complete Trust in God

7 If I should find myself astray,
If I should meet with troubles, Lord,
And be surrounded by my foes,
I know that your right hand, O Lord,
Will save me and preserve my life
Against the fury of my foes.

8 The Lord will lovingly perfect
The work he has begun in me.

Your love endures for evermore:
Do not forsake your work in me,
The work of your own hands, O Lord.

Psalm 139 (138)**GOD IS PRESENT EVERYWHERE****I. God Knows All Things**

1 You search me and you know me, Lord;
2 When I sit still and do not move,
Or when I rise and move about,
You know my every action, Lord,
You read my mind and know my thoughts;
3 And when I walk you know it, Lord;
When I lie down you see it, Lord;
You know my every action, Lord,

- For you give heed to all my ways;
My words are not yet on my tongue
And you already know them all;
- 5 For you surround me on all sides,
You hold me in your hands, O Lord,
You rest your hand upon my head.
- 6 How you can know my inmost thoughts
Or how you know my every act
Is far too wonderful for me,
Is far too great for me to grasp.

II. God is Present Everywhere

- 7 Your spirit hovers everywhere:
So where could I find refuge, Lord,
If I should try to flee from you
And thus escape your presence, Lord?
- 8 If I should fly up to the skies
I would then find that you are there;
If I went down into the grave
And took my place among the dead
And dwelt in gloomy, dark Sheol
I would then also find you there;
- 9 If I should flee to farthest east,
And soar aloft on wings of dawn;
If I should flee to farthest west,
And dwell in far off ocean depths,
- 10 Then even there your loving hand
Would guide me and would keep me safe;

- 11 If I should seek escape and say:
“Let utter darkness cover me
And let the light be turned to night
And thus conceal and cover me,”
The darkness would not hide me, Lord,
12 For darkness is not dark for you
And night for you is bright as day,
And darkness is for you like light.

III. God Sees All Things

- 13 O Lord, you made and fashioned me,
You formed me in my mother's womb;
14 I praise you and I thank you, Lord,
I stand in awe and reverence
Before the wonder of my birth;
Your works, indeed, are wonderful;
My soul knows all of this full well.

15 Nor could my inmost being, Lord,
Be hidden from your searching gaze,
When in mysterious secrecy
You formed me in my mother's womb;
16 Your eyes saw all my movements, Lord,
You saw me struggle in the womb;
My life was written in your book,
My days were all recorded there
Before they had yet come to be,
Recorded long before my birth.

17 Your thoughts are far beyond my grasp,
Your plans are too sublime for me,
How vast and great the sum of them;

- 18 For if I tried to number them,
A vain and worthless task, indeed,
Their number would be greater, Lord,
Than all the sands of all the seas;
And if I ever reached the end
I still would find myself with you,
The one eternal Lord and God.

IV. Keep Evildoers Far Away from Me

- 19 But in your justice you will crush
All those who know but blood and hate,
So that these evildoers, Lord,
Be taken far away from me;
- 20 For they rebel against you, Lord,
Deceit and treachery mark their ways,
They act with pride and haughtiness.
- 21 I shrink from those who hate you, Lord;
How weary I have grown of them
Who in their pride defy you, Lord
- 22 I am completely bored with them,
They have become my enemies.
- 23 O search me, God, and see my heart;
O test me, Lord, and know my thoughts,
- 24 And see if there be any fault
Of which I have been guilty, Lord;
If I have strayed then lead me back
And guide me on your ways, O Lord,
The ways our fathers walked of old.

Psalm 140 (139)

**PRAYER FOR HELP AGAINST
THE WICKED**

I. Free Me, Lord, from My Cruel Foes

- 2 Lord, save me from the impious,
Protect me from the violent
- 3 And from the wicked keep me safe;
Their hearts are full of evil plots,
They stir up constant wars and strife;
- 4 Their tongues are sharp and poisonous,
Their lips are like the deadly fangs
Of vipers striking at their prey.

II. Protect Me in the Midst of Strife

- 5 Lord, save me from the impious,
Protect me from the violent:
They plan to overthrow me, Lord:
- 6 The proud set hidden snares for me,
They stretch out cords to form a net,
They set their traps along the way
To trip me up and capture me.
- 7 With confidence I pray to you:
“You are my God and loving Lord,
O hearken to my urgent plea!
- 8 O Lord, my God, my strength and shield,
Protect me in the midst of strife.”

III. Let Not My Enemies Prevail

- 9 Let not the wicked have their way

Nor let their plots be carried out,
Let not their wicked schemes succeed.

- 10 They hem me in, surrounding me,
They lift their heads up high with pride;
But they themselves will soon be caught
In traps which they prepared for me;
And all their wicked schemes and plots,
Their malice and deceitful speech,
Will fall on them and crush them, Lord;
- 11 And you will rain hot coals on them,
And cast them down into the pit,
From which they will not rise again.

IV. God Will Judge the Good and the Wicked

- 12 All those with evil tongues and speech
Shall not endure upon the earth;
The violent shall meet their fate
More quickly than they ever thought;
For they shall soon be overcome:
Their life shall end in misery.
- 13 I know that God defends the poor,
Protects the rights of those in need
And lifts up those who are oppressed;
- 14 The just will therefore praise the Lord,
Although they be oppressed and poor.
For they have put their trust in God
And know that they shall one day dwell
Forever in the sight of God.

Psalm 141 (140)**FOR PROTECTION IN TEMPTATION*****I. Lord, Accept My Prayer***

- 1 My Lord and God, I cry to you:
Come quickly, hearken to my voice,
- 2 And let my prayer reach you, Lord,
As incense rising up to you;
And may the raising of my hands
Be like an evening sacrifice.

II. Lord, Save Me from My Cruel Foes

- 3 O set a guard around my mouth
And place a seal upon my lips;
- 4 Let not my heart be led astray
Nor turned to evil deeds, O Lord;
Lord, save me from the impious
That I may not take part with them
In all their evil deeds and ways;
And may I never share with them
Their lavish foods and pleasures, Lord.
- 5 Now if the upright out of love
Correct me, Lord, and strike me down,
This would be kindness on their part;
If they rebuke me that is good
For it would be like precious oil,
A precious ointment on my head
Which I would not reject, O Lord.

However I shall always pray

That from the wicked I be saved,
That I may not take part with them
In all their evil deeds and ways;

- 6 When once they see their princes judged
And cast upon the rocks below,
They will recall my warning words
And see how just though mild they were.
- 7 Now as the plowman plows his field
And digs up stones and shatters them
And breaks up hardened clumps of earth;
Or as when wood is chopped to bits
And chips are scattered on the ground;
Or as a millstone broken up,
Its pieces lying on the ground:
So will their bones be scattered wide
Before the jaws of dark Sheol.

III. Lord, Help Me to Escape Unharméd

- 8 My eyes are therefore turned to you,
My Lord and God, to you I flee,
In you I seek my refuge, Lord,
Do not destroy my soul in death.
- 9 Lord, save me from the impious,
From all the snares they set for me,
And let me not be trapped by them.
- 10 But soon the wicked of themselves
Will be entangled in the nets
Which they have made and set for me.

Lord, help me to escape unharmed;
From evildoers keep me safe,
From all their evil deeds and ways.

Psalm 142 (141)

**PRAYER IN TIME OF
GREAT DISTRESS**

I. Lord, You Know My Great Distress

- 2 I cry aloud to God for help,
 I cry aloud in my distress,
 I beg for mercy from the Lord;
- 3 And as my drooping spirits fail
 I pour out all my grief to him
 And lay before him my distress,
- 4 Although the Lord already knows
 How much I am depressed and sad,
 How weak and faint my spirit is.

II. Lord, You Are My Only Hope

- My foes set out their traps for me,
 They lay their snares across my path;
- 5 I look to right and left and see
 There is no friend who cares for me,
 There is no place where I can flee
 And no one cares to rescue me.

III. Lord, Free Me from My Great Distress

- 6 I cry to you, O Lord, and say:
“You are my refuge and my shield,
You are my portion and my hope,
The hope of all the living, Lord.”
- 7 O heed my cry and hear my plea
For I am faint and miserable,
My heart is filled with sadness, Lord;
Deliver me from all my foes,
Who seek to take my life, O Lord,
Their strength is greater than my own.
- 8 O free me from this prison cave
Where I have hidden from my foes;
O free me, Lord, and rescue me
That I may praise your holy name;
The just will gather round me then
For you have been so good to me.

Psalm 143 (142)**PRAYER FOR MERCY
AND GUIDANCE****I. Spare Me, Lord, and Pardon Me**

- 1 O hear my prayer, answer me,
Give ear to my most urgent plea;
For you are just and faithful, Lord,
You always keep your word of truth.

- 2 Do not pass judgment on me, Lord,
But spare me and condemn me not,
Be merciful and pardon me
For no one living here on earth
Is perfect in your sight, O Lord.

II. Surrounded by Foes, I Turn to You

- 3 My foes pursue me everywhere:
They hunt me down and seek my life,
They cast me down and crush me, Lord,
They cast me down upon the ground;
In darkness they have left me lie,
They left me in the dark alone
Like those who long ago had died.
- 4 My drooping spirits fail me now,
My heart is frozen, cold and dead.
- 5 But I recall the days of old,
I think of all your deeds, O Lord,
Of all the works which you have wrought;
- 6 I raise my hands and arms to you
And like a parched and desert land
My spirit thirsts for you, O Lord.

III. Lord, Rescue Me from All My Foes

- 7 O hasten, Lord, and answer me,
My drooping spirits fail me now;
And do not hide your face from me
Lest I become like those who die
And end up in the grave, O Lord,

Who go into the gloomy pit,
The lonely pit of dark Sheol.

- 8 O grant that you may soon see fit
To show me your great mercy, Lord,
For I have placed my trust in you;
And let me know where I should walk
For I have lifted up my soul,
Have lifted up my soul to you;
9 O rescue me from all my foes;
I hope in you, my Lord and God.

IV. Let Not My Foes Come Near to Me

- 10 So teach me, Lord, to do your will
Because you are my Lord and God;
And may your loving spirit, Lord,
Direct me in the righteous paths
That lead to you, my Lord and God.
- 11 And for your name's sake, spare me, Lord,
O spare my life that I may live;
And through your gracious clemency
Deliver me from my distress.
- 12 And through your loving kindness, Lord,
Let not my foes come near to me,
But strike them down and crush them all
Who trouble me and seek my life:
Behold, I am your servant, Lord.

Psalm 144 (143)**PRAYER FOR TEMPORAL
PROSPERITY*****I. Lord, You Are My Only Sure Defense***

- 1 O praised be God, my Lord and Rock,
He trains my fingers and my hands,
That I may bend the strongest bow
For victory in the time of strife.
- 2 The Lord is merciful to me;
He is my fortress and my strength,
My savior and my sure defense;
He is my refuge and my shield;
He places peoples under me,
He makes me ruler over them.

II. Lord, Keep Me Strong Against My Foes

- 3 Why is it that you care for us?
Why should you, Lord, thus favor us?
Why should you even think of us?
- 4 Our life is like a single breath;
The span of human life on earth
Is almost nothing in your sight,
A shadow on the walls of time;
Once seen, it quickly disappears.
- 5 O Lord, come down and show your might,
Come down amidst the stormy clouds,
And make the mountains burn and smoke;

- 6 With thunderbolts disperse our foes,
With lightning flashes scatter them;
Send forth your arrows swift and sure
And rout our foes on every side.
- 7 Stretch forth your right hand from the skies,
Deliver me and rescue me;
O save me from the watery depths,
The depths of sadness and despair.
- 8 Deliver me from foreign foes
Whose mouth is full of lying words,
And under oath, their right hand raised,
Their speech is all deceit and lies.

II. Lord, I Shall Always Praise and Thank You

- 9 A new song now I sing to you
Upon the ten-stringed harp, O Lord,
And I shall praise your holy name;
- 10 For you give kings the strength, O Lord,
To overcome their enemies;
And thus you saved your servant, Lord,
Your servant David from his foes.
- 11 O save me from the threatening sword,
Deliver me from foreign foes
Whose mouth is full of lying words,
And under oath, their right hand raised,
Their speech is all deceit and lies.

IV. Lord, Grant Your People Peace

- 12 O may our sons be like young plants

That grow in strength and soon mature;
And may our daughters in their youth
Be graceful, strong, and beautiful,
Be like the corner pillars, Lord,
The pillars carved with greatest skill
On which your holy temple rests.

- 13 And may our granaries be filled,
Be filled to overflowing, Lord,
With every kind of grain and fruit;
And may our flocks of grazing sheep
Increase and grow a thousandfold,
And by the thousands multiply;
- 14 And may our beasts of burden, Lord,
Be laden down with grain and oil.

Let not our foes break through our walls,
But may our walls remain secure
That we may not be exiled, Lord,
Nor forced to leave your dwelling place;
And may our streets be safe and free
From cries of terror in the night.

- 15 How happy those thus blessed with peace
Who put their faith and trust in God,
Whose God has always been the Lord.

Psalm 145 (144)**THE UNIVERSAL KINGDOM
OF GOD*****I. I Shall Praise the Lord Forever***

- 1 I will forever praise you, Lord,
And bless your name, my God and King,
Forever and for evermore;
- 2 Each day my song will be your praise
And I will glorify your name,
Your holy name for evermore.

II. God's Majesty and Power

- 3 The Lord is great and powerful,
His greatness is beyond our grasp,
We cannot weigh or measure it:
The highest praise is due to him.
- 4 Let every age give praise to you
And praise your wondrous works, O Lord;
Let every age declare your might
And loud proclaim your sovereign power.
- 5 Let every age declare your praise
And recognize your majesty,
The splendor of your majesty,
And loud proclaim your wondrous works
That all may praise your greatness, Lord;
- 6 Let all declare the awesome might
Of all your great and wondrous works,
And loud proclaim your greatness, Lord.

III. God's Goodness

- 7 Let every age give praise to you,
Your boundless goodness loud proclaim,
Rejoicing in your righteousness
And trusting in your justice, Lord.
- 8 The Lord is ever merciful,
Is gracious and compassionate,
Is slow to anger, rich in love,
His loving kindness has no bounds;
- 9 The Lord is good and kind to all,
His boundless mercy reaches out
To all his creatures, great and small.

IV. The Glory of God's Kingdom

- 10 Let all your creatures praise you, Lord,
Let all creation sing your praise;
And may your faithful servants, Lord,
Give praise to you for evermore;
- 11 May all your servants loud proclaim
The glory of your kingdom, Lord,
And loud proclaim your sovereign power;
- 12 May they declare to all the world
The splendor of your majesty,
The grandeur of your kingdom, Lord:
- 13 Your kingdom is eternal, Lord,
Your rule endures through every age.

V. God's Divine Providence

The Lord is faithful to his words
And never fails to keep his word;

The Lord is holy in his works
And all that he has made is good.

- 14 The Lord extends his gracious hand
And lifts up those about to fall;
He holds his hand in readiness
To help all those bowed down with grief;
- 15 The eyes of all look up to you,
They place their trust and hope in you,
And in due time you give them food;
- 16 You open up your hand to all
And in your kindness you provide
For all the living here below.

VI. God's Kindness to the Faithful

- 17 The Lord is just in all his ways
And never fails to keep his word;
The Lord is holy in his works
And what he does and makes is good.
- 18 The Lord is near and comes to those
Who are sincere and pure of heart,
Who call on him in search of help;
- 19 And he will fully satisfy
The needs of those who trust in him,
Who fear him and believe in him;
And he will hear their cry for help,
Will answer them and rescue them;
- 20 The Lord protects and cares for those
Who love him and obey his word:
But those who spurn the word of God
Will face destruction in the end.

VII. May God Be Praised by All

- 21 O let my mouth and tongue proclaim
The praise and glory of the Lord,
That all the world may bless his name,
His holy name for evermore.

Psalm 146 (145)**IN PRAISE OF GOD OUR HELPER**

- 1 My soul, sing praises to the Lord!
2 I will forever praise the Lord,
Will sing his praises all my days
As long as he will give me life.

I. Lord, We Place Our Trust in You

- 3 Let not our trust in princes be:
Salvation cannot come from them
For they are mortal as ourselves:
4 Our human souls will all depart,
Our bodies then return to dust
And all our plans will come to naught.

II. Lord, You Are Our Only Hope

- 5 O blessed are those who look to God,
The God of Jacob, Israel's God,
Who look to him for help and strength,
Whose only hope is in the Lord;

- 6 The Lord has planned and made all things,
The skies above, the earth below,
The lands and seas and ocean depths
And all that stirs and moves in them;

The Lord is faithful to his word,
His love and justice will prevail,
His great concern is for the poor,
And for the needy and oppressed:
He will in time restore their rights
And see that justice is observed;

- 7 The Lord provides our food and drink,
He gives the hungry bread to eat;

- 8 The Lord makes free the captive slaves,
He brings back vision to the blind,
He holds his hand in readiness
To lift up those bowed down in grief,
He loves the just and faithful ones;

- 9 The Lord with loving care protects
The pilgrim strangers in the land;
He also loves the fatherless,
He cares for widows in their home,
He comforts and supports them all;
But sinners in their wicked ways
He will at length confound and shame.

- 10 The Lord will reign for evermore,
Your God, O Zion, rules the world,
He rules the world from age to age,
Will rule the world for evermore.

Psalm 147 (146-147)

**GOD'S GREATNESS AND
GOODNESS**

1. Praise God Who Restored Israel

- 1 O praise the Lord, for he is good,
Sing praise to God, for he is kind,
The highest praise is due to him.
- 2 The Lord restores Jerusalem,
Restores and builds it up again;
He gathers up the Israelites,
The scattered tribe of Israel,
And brings them to Jerusalem;
- 3 He heals the brokenhearted ones,
He binds up all their wounds and sores.
- 4 He fixed the number of the stars,
And he can name each one of them;
- 5 Our Lord is great and powerful,
His mighty strength is unsurpassed,
His wisdom is beyond our grasp.
- 6 The Lord upholds the lowly ones,
He lifts them up and comforts them;
As for the wicked, these he shames,
He humbles them and casts them down,
He casts them down upon the ground.

II. Praise God Who Provides for His Faithful

- 7 O sing a hymn of thanks to God,
Give praise to him upon the harp;
- 8 He fills the skies with clouds of rain
With which he moistens all the earth
And makes the grass grow fresh and green
Upon the fertile mountainsides;
- 9' He thus provides abundant food
For cattle grazing in the fields;
He feeds young ravens in their nests
As they cry out to him for food.

- 10 He does not need a horse to ride
Nor legs to walk from place to place;
He does not need the horse's strength,
He does not need its strength and speed;
Nor does he need the sturdy legs
Of soldiers marching on to war;
In these he takes no great delight;
Nor does he take delight in those
Who trust in horses and themselves.

- 11 He does however take delight
In those who fear and trust in him,
Who trust in him for he is good,
For he is kind and merciful.

III. Praise God Who Restored Jerusalem

- 12 O praise the Lord, Jerusalem;
O Zion, praise your Lord and God,
- 13 Because he has restored your walls

- And bolted tight your city gates;
He made them all secure and strong;
He blessed with peace and happiness
Your faithful children living there;
- 14 He left his peace within your gates,
He feeds you with abundant wheat,
He feeds you with the finest wheat.
- 15 He gives his word and forth it goes,
His mere command is quickly spread
Unto the ends of all the earth.
- 16 He sends down snow like finest wool
And spreads it out upon the land;
He silently sends hoarfrost down
Before the early break of day
Like gray-white ashes on the trees
That glisten in the morning sun;
- 17 He sends down hailstones, frozen white,
He scatters them like crumbs of bread;
He gives the word, the frost comes down
And turns the waters into ice;
- 18 But then he gives the word again
And frozen waters melt again;
He orders warming winds to blow,
The ice dissolves, the waters flow.
- 19 To Jacob he proclaimed his word,
To Israel he gave his word,
His laws and all his just decrees;
- 20 No other nations have enjoyed

Such blessings from the Lord, our God:
He did not give them his commands,
Did not reveal his laws to them.

Give praise to God, O Israel!

Psalm 148

PRAISE OF GOD THE CREATOR

1. Let All the Heavens Praise the Lord

- 1 All you heavens, praise the Lord,
Praise him, all you heavenly heights;
- 2 All you angels, praise the Lord,
Praise him, all you heavenly hosts;
- 3 Praise the Lord, O sun and moon,
Praise him, all you shining stars;
- 4 Praise him, highest heavens above,
All you waters far above,
Far beyond the skies, give praise;
- 5 Let them praise the name of God,
Let them praise their Lord and King;
By his word and mere command
All the world was made by him;
- 6 And he put all things in place,
Put them in their proper place,
Fixing them for evermore,
Giving them decrees and laws
Which shall never pass away.

II. Let All the Earth Praise the Lord

- 7 Let the earth give praise to God:
All you monsters of the seas,
All you ocean depths, give praise;
- 8 Hail and lightning, snow and mist,
All you stormy winds and rain,
All who keep the word of God
And obey his holy will,
Praise the Lord, your God and King.
- 9 Hills and mountains, valleys, plains,
All you fruit trees, praise the Lord,
All you cedars, praise the Lord.
- 10 All you beasts, both wild and tame,
All you cattle, oxen, sheep,
All you beasts that creep and crawl,
All you winged and feathered birds,
Praise the Lord, your God and King.

III. Let All the People Praise the Lord

- 11 All you kings that rule the earth,
All you princes of the earth,
All you judges of the land,
- 12 All you maidens, young men too,
Old and young together praise,
- 13 Praise the holy name of God
For his name alone is great,
Far above all other names.
- 14 Splendid in his majesty,
Far surpassing earth and skies,
God has strengthened Israel,

Giving them their former power
That their hearts be comforted
And their spirit be renewed;
That his people once again
Prosper as they did of old
In the sight of all their foes;

This their glory and their praise:
That as God's own faithful ones
They may praise the Lord, their God,
And be honored by their foes,
By the people of the land,
As the faithful sons of God,
As the sons of Israel,
As a people near to God.

Praise the Lord, O Israel!

Psalm 149

GLORY BE TO GOD

1. Let All Rejoice in the Lord

- 1 O praise the Lord and sing to him
A newly written song of praise;
And let his praises ring out clear
Wherever his own faithful ones
Are gathered in the name of God.

- 2 Let Israel rejoice in God,
In God, their maker and their King;
Let all his people Israel
Rejoice and sing in Zion's courts
Where God abides and dwells with them;
- 3 By joining in the festive dance
With tambourines and ten-stringed harps,
Together let them praise his name,
The holy name of God their Lord;
- 4 For God has taken great delight
In his own people Israel,
And he has crowned his lowly ones,
His faithful ones with victory;

- 5 His faithful ones are filled with joy
At all the honors heaped on them.
At all the glory given them:
By day and night they sing for joy,
They sing upon their beds at night;
In peace, they rest secure at night.

II. The Foes of God's People Have Been Conquered

- 6 Their mouths are filled with praise of God,
Their victory has made them strong;
They keep their two-edged swords at hand
That they may always be prepared,
That when the day of battle comes
They may with courage face their foes
And charge them on the battlefield
- 7 Where they will shame and strike them down

- And conquer all their enemies
Who seek to capture Israel:
- 8 The kings they will then bind in chains
And bind the noble princes too
With iron cuffs will bind them fast
And take them in captivity.
- 9 And thus they will have carried out
The judgments once decreed by God,
The judgments written in the book,
The book of judgments of the Lord
By which all evil men are doomed;
This task was given them by God,
Bestowed upon his faithful ones.

O Israel, praise the Lord, your God!

Psalm 150

FINAL CALL TO PRAISE THE LORD

- 1 Praise the Lord within his courts,
In his temple give him praise;
Praise him in the skies above,
Far above the firmament
Where in splendor he abides,
Where his glory never fades,
Where he dwells for evermore.
- 2 Praise him for his mighty deeds,

Praise him for his majesty,
For his greatness and his might;
He surpasses all the gods
By his sovereign majesty,
By his wondrous deeds and works.

- 3 Praise the Lord with trumpet blast,
Praise him with the harp and lyre;
- 4 Praise the Lord with drums and dance,
Praise the Lord with flute and strings;

Crashing cymbals, praise your God;
- 6 Everything that breathes and lives
Praise the Lord for evermore. Alleluia.

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PSALMS FOR DAILY PRAYER

WEEK I	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Daytime</i>	<i>Evening</i>
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Tue.	10, 12, 24, 31	119(1-8), 14, 14	20, 21
Wed.	18A, 36, 47	119(9-16), 17	27A, 27B
Thu.	18B, 57, 48	119(17-24) 25	30, 32
Fri.	35, 51, 100	119(25-32), 26, 28	41, 46
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Tue.	37, 43, 65	119(49-56), 53, 54	49
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Thu.	44, 80, 81	119(65-72), 56, 57	72
Fri.	38, 51, 147 (12-20)	119(73-80), 59, 60	116A, 121
Sat.	136, 92, 8	119(81-88), 61	113, 116B
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Mon.	50, 84, 96	119(89-96), 71	123, 124
Tue.	68, 85, 67	119(97-104) 74	125, 131
Wed.	89(2-38), 86, 98	119(105-112), 70, 75	126, 127
Thu.	89(39-53), 90, 87, 99	119(113-120), 79, 80	132
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